

Hafa Adai!

Torres: What are your solutions? **PAGE 3**

US holds 2nd round of Compact talks with FSM, Palau. **PAGE 5**

75¢

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXX, Issue No. 141

www.saipantribune.com

FRIDAY JULY 17, 2020

www.facebook.com/saipantribune

IPI wants 9th change to CLA

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC wants the casino license agreement amended once more—its ninth bid to have the agreement amended since being awarded the casino license on Saipan.

» **Company wants CBF changed to percent of net profit instead of flat amount**

Among the changes it wants this time is to reduce the annu-
See IPI on Page 4

Emergency enters 7th month

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI entered its seventh month under a State of Public Health Emergency and continued state of significant emer-

gency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, following Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' issuance of Executive Order 2020-15 last Wednesday.

This renewal is in effect for 30 days, or until Aug.

15, 2020.

"COVID-19 continues to pose a significant and imminent threat of harm to the community, environment and people of the CNMI and thus emergency declarations are necessary to respond, quarantine and ensure the prevention of or containment of COVID-19."
See EMERGENCY on Page 4

CHCC redraws COVID-19 dashboard

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In what is being plugged as a means to be more transparent to the public, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has amended its COVID-19 dashboard on its website to make the data more widely accessible to the public now.

From just providing a tally of how many COVID-19 cases are there so far, the number of "recovered" cases, how many people have gotten test-

ed for COVID-19, etc., it now also incorporated geographic data that, according to the CHCC geographic information system.
See CHCC on Page 4

1st batch of PUA/FPUC benefits disbursed

The first batch of Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation have been transmitted to the

CNMI Department of Finance for processing.

The direct deposit payments/ACH transfers for this first batch are expected to hit

banks starting today, July 17, 2020, and forward following the allowable banking schedules. The lump sum payment
See 1ST BATCH on Page 4

NEW UNITED SCHEDULE

Departing passengers of United Airlines undergo a quick check outside before entering the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport building to check in for their flight to Guam. Effective July 20, 2020, United Airlines is changing its flight schedule. It will still have two flights on Mondays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, but the first flight, which used to be at 7:30am (UA 174), will now be leaving Saipan for Guam at 5:50am. The second flight, which used to be at 9:15am (UA 117), will now fly to Guam at 7:30am.

KRIZEL TUAZON



AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, July 16, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	313	1	314
Recovered	213	1	214
Active	94	1	95
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			18,148

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	36	0	36
Active	6	0	6
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			10,697**

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Joe Ayuyu Jr. is promoted to vice president of McDonald's of Guam and Saipan on July 1.

PAGE 14



WORLD

Illegal armed groups are imposing strict COVID-19 quarantines in parts of Colombia.

PAGE 17



LIFE & STYLE

Banksy's last COVID-19 graffiti are scrubbed from the London Tube train.

PAGE 19



SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.



GOT A NEWS TIP?

TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

THE FASTEST INTERNET SPEEDS IN THE CNMI, FOR AS LOW AS \$50

Switch to a better internet experience

\$50
per month

30 Mbps ↓
5.0 Mbps ↑

\$65
per month

60 Mbps ↓
6.0 Mbps ↑



Whole Home WiFi

Powered by
Plume

YOU + FREE



1 FREE
Superpod



FREE
Amazon
Echo Dot



FREE
Amazon
Fire TV
Stick

488-CARE
docomopacific.com

docomo pacific
Better Together

Offer valid to Consumer subscribers that are deemed serviceable from the existing DOCOMO PACIFIC plant without modification. Minimum 12-month agreement required. Promotional discount valid for 12-months of service. Standard rates apply 12-months from date of activation. Free basic installation. While supplies last. Some conditions apply.

Local

IPI now complying, asks court to lower sanction

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has asked the federal court to lower the \$2,000 a day sanction it imposed on the company to just \$500 a day until the company finishes its production of documents in connection with a lawsuit filed by seven former workers.

In its motion for relief, IPI, through general counsel Michael W. Dotts, said that IPI is nearing completion with the submission of all documents being asked of it and it has produced materials from 53 boxes and ACONEX data. What is left, Dotts said, is perhaps the most difficult and this is the production of electronically stored information. The lawyer said IPI has found a California-based vendor that it is comfortable working with and can perform the work at a lower cost than the Singapore-based vendor IPI had previously hired.

"Once the ESI discovery is done, IPI will move for a complete lifting of the sanctions," the lawyer said.

In April, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona found IPI in civil contempt for violating two court orders regarding the

production of "discovery materials" and imposed a monetary sanction of \$2,000 a day until IPI comes into compliance. Last May, Manglona ordered IPI to pay the daily sanction to the court from May 17 until such a time that it files certification of full compliance that the sanctions order is satisfied.

Since then, Dotts said, IPI has come into compliance with producing responsive materials from the 53 boxes, which included a total of 12,283 pages of documentation. Dotts said IPI came into compliance with regard to tendering the paper discovery on July 13, 2020.

As IPI is still working on producing ESI, Dotts said it is not asking for a total end to the sanction, but just a reduction to \$500 per day.

The plaintiffs, who are now back in China, are suing IPI and its two former contractors for allegedly forcing them to work long hours for below minimum wage under extremely dangerous conditions at the casino worksite, among other allegations.

In its response, IPI said any wage claims by the plaintiffs are barred because they voluntarily illegally entered the CNMI to work.

NMTI's planned reopening in Sept. turns tentative due to lack of funds

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Technical Institute's plan to reopen in September is now tentative because it has no funds to prepare for the resumption of classes.

According to NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres, the plan to re-

open the school in September requires about \$200,000 that they don't have. NMTI did ask CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente for \$200,000 as its share of what is called CW funds, which is the amount employers pay to hire foreign workers, so NMTI can start preparing for the next school year by recalling its 23 fur-

See NMTI on Next Page

Toys & Clothes

for children
ages 0 to 10

New Arrivals
Scooters, WWE Figures
and More!

LOLLIPOPS

BEACH RD., GARAPAN
Mon-Sat: 9am to 6pm & Sun: 10am to 4pm
TEL : 234-8040

Like us on Facebook

a boutique for Tween Girls

ages 8-12

**Communion Dresses
and Accessories
Now Available!**

Girl Talk

FISG Bldg., Micro Beach Road, next to Swirls
Monday - Saturday: 10am to 4pm
Closed on Sunday
TEL. 233-8050

Like us on Facebook

Torres: What are your solutions?

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

To critics of his administration, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres wants solutions to issues hounding the CNMI.

At the news briefing Tuesday, when asked about his opinion on the seemingly endless dispute, especially on social media, between some members of the administration and some members of the Legislature, Torres said his door is open to anyone who wants to move forward for the betterment of the CNMI.

"At the end of the day, we do need to work together and address our issues," he added.

The governor urged his

critics to come up with solutions, in particular focusing on bringing tourism back up and funding for the CNMI's retirees.

"With tourism, you criticize certain things, what's your solution? Who do you have here marketing the new Marianas? ...When something is good, you criticize it. Let's look into it. What's this? What's that? Well, what's your solution?" he said. "How do you bring in tourists? How do you bring in your Korean market? How do you increase our Japanese market? How do you bring in other markets? What is your plan for the Northern Islands? Who do you have marketing the whole Marianas?"



Torres



LIGHTHOUSE RENOVATION

Even after the delays due to the novel coronavirus, renovation work at the Japanese Lighthouse on Navy Hill continues. The "new and improved" lighthouse was supposed to be up and ready this year in May but that has been delayed due to COVID-19. KRIZEL TUAZON

NMTI

From Page 2

loughed employees.

McPhetres added that NMTI is entitled to the CW funds but the DOL secretary is the expenditure authority. "So I sent a letter to Vicky, asking for additional funding. I gave her a deadline. I told her I want my employees to be back by Aug. 1 so we can have a one-month preparation to open the trade school," she said, adding that she sent the request to Benavente last Monday.

The \$200,000 NMTI is asking for will pay the instructors' payroll for the five pay periods left in the current fiscal year, as well as instructional services such as transportation and student registration, McPhetres said.

In fiscal year 2020, the

CNMI government received about \$2.4 million in CW funds, she said. "I know we still have money from those funds because we only spent \$450,000 and our projection for the whole year is \$1.3 million," said McPhetres.

Employers petitioning for CW-1 permits for their foreign workers pay a mandatory \$200 education fee for each permit. Everything collected from the mandatory education fee is transferred to the CNMI government to fund vocational education, apprenticeships, or other training programs for U.S. workers.

McPhetres said in a prior interview that the trade school was supposed to receive \$2.4 million in CW funds in fiscal year 2020 and a similar amount in fiscal year 2021. As of June, she said, NMTI had only received \$450,000.

"The casino came in, we get criticized. We did it for the retirees, what's your solution? We can sit here and put a Democrat and Republican, and just criticize. What solution do you bring to the table? ...Well, let's have great ideas. Let's collaborate. Let's have a good solution," he added.

Last April, retirees' pensions were cut to just 75% due to funding restrictions. The full amounts were restored the following month in May. Adding to the budget concerns is COVID-19 hitting the CNMI's only industry, tourism.

With no tourists in the CNMI, every government department is right now going through challenges, according to the governor. "Good thing that we have our federal funds coming in to assist us and alleviate our shortfall. The administration and all the departments will continue to work as hard as we can to provide public safety, public health, and continuing education," he said.

The governor also asked for lawmakers to "bring in solutions" such as coming up with new revenue-generating bills, where everyone "can work together."

Anniversary Sale

JULY 12-31, 2020

OPEN EVERYDAY OF THE YEAR, PROVIDING PRESCRIPTION MEDICATION AND HEALTHCARE ESSENTIALS TO THE PEOPLE OF THE CNMI FOR OVER 24 YEARS.

35% OFF

SUPPLEMENTS, VITAMINS & SPORTS NUTRITIONAL PRODUCTS

25% OFF

ALL OTC ITEMS

50% OFF

ON SELECTED ITEMS

Kagman Branch
(Kagman Commercial Building)
Tel. (670) 256-0131
Fax (670) 256-0134
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm
Sat - Sun: CLOSED

Dandan (Joeten Dandan Center)
Tel. (670) 323-5000/01
235-6170/74
Fax (670) 235-6180
Mon-Fri: 8am - 6pm
Sat-Sun: 8am - 4pm

Visit us on www.facebook.com/phiparmacy
PHI Pharmacy...the pharmacy you can trust!

Limited Time Deal

Buy One, \$2.99

Get One for

Chicken Tenders

Buy One order of 4pc-Chicken Tenders & Get the 2nd order of 4pc-Chicken Tenders for \$2.99 only.

Open for Dine-in, Drive thru and Take out services

Serving you Safely

STORE HOURS: MIDDLE ROAD STORE - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY • GARAPAN BEACH ROAD - 6:30AM TO 10:00PM DAILY
Chalan Pale Arnold Road 235-8577 • Garapan Express 233-8577 • Office Tel: 235-8761 • Fax: 235-8760 • E-mail: admin@jcamcd.com

IPI

From Page 1

al casino license fee by half, extend the deadlines for IPI to complete the construction of the Imperial Palace Resort in Garapan and its other projects, and to change the community benefit fund into a percentage of its net profit instead of a flat amount.

The requested changes to the CLA has already been submitted to the CNMI Lottery Commission.

In its request for amendments, IPI cited many global and local unexpected events, including the COVID-10 pandemic, for their significant impact on the company, plus many changes to laws and regulations that cannot be predicted and that are IPI's beyond control.

IPI director Zheng Dong Ting said that IPI has appointed its senior vice president for public affairs, Tao Xing, to head up a team to negotiate the ninth amendment to the casino license agreement with the Commonwealth Lottery Commission. Xing may have on his team some managers and legal counsel as he deems advisable, according to Ting in an IPI resolution dated June 26, 2020.

Ting said Xing has full authority to negotiate with the Commonwealth Lottery Commission and to enter into

an amendment to the CLA with the commission.

Responding to *Saipan Tribune* questions and request for comments yesterday, IPI general counsel Michael W. Dotts said that the annual license fee is set by statute and that portion will require the Legislature's approval. He believes, though, that the proposed change to the community benefit fund is the most significant proposal.

The lawyer said the community benefit fund is not money paid to the CNMI. "It is money paid to projects that IPI believes will benefit the community. It can be paid for a wide variety of purposes, such as education, health care, and retirement benefits," he said.

Dotts said the original timing for the community benefit fund was that it would start after IPI began construction in Marpi. That has yet to break ground, however, because IPI does not have the public land it was expecting to get in Marpi, Dotts said.

He said the amendment now has the contribution to the community benefit fund starting when the Marpi casino begins operations.

"The calculation of the amount paid to the community benefit fund will be changed from a flat amount to a percentage of the net profit," the lawyer pointed out.

As for the proposed changes that are not about fees and contributions, Dotts said the most significant is probably the provision that sets a timetable for the award of a suitable public land in Marpi. "This will hopefully result in the Marpi project finally moving forward. And it will then set in motion the triggering of the payment to the community benefit fund," he said.

The lawyer pointed out that the reason why these proposed changes have popped up is the COVID-19 pandemic. He said there is a provision in the original license agreement that suspends the obligations of both IPI and the CNMI if events occur that are beyond the control of the parties, like wars, strikes, labor disputes, and what insurance companies call "acts of God" like earthquakes, tsunamis, and catastrophic typhoons.

Dotts said the amendment makes clear that epidemics, the spread of infectious diseases, and other situations that are beyond the control of IPI and that will harm operations are covered in this section.

In its proposed ninth amendment, IPI wants a new provision in the casino license agreement that states that annual license fee for each of Year 6 and Year 7 of the license term shall be reduced by half, such that 50%

of the license fee paid by the IPI for Year 6 shall apply as annual license fee for Year 7 of the license term. August 2020 is the start of Year 6, while August 2021 starts the seventh year. Under the CLA, IPI is required to pay \$15 million in annual casino license fee.

IPI proposes that the Initial Gaming Facility Implementation Schedule to be completed by no later than Feb. 28, 2022 and not on the current deadline of Feb 28, 2021.

IPI said it has paid over \$300 million in taxes to date that funded and supported many government operations, positions and initiatives,

and contributed also to maintaining the solvency of the NMI Retirement Fund.

IPI said it has continually and actively promoted the CNMI, directly and sometimes in conjunction with the Marianas Visitors Authority, particularly in China and supported the increase in tourism to the CNMI.

IPI said as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unexpected major unpredicted global event that has already lasted almost six months and generally expected to last for many more months to come, IPI has, like many other businesses, fallen on hard times.

EMERGENCY

From Page 1

ID-19 in the CNMI," states the governor's executive order.

Torres first declared the Commonwealth under the state of significant emergency on Jan. 29, two days before the national declaration of a public health emergency, as a means to facilitate and implement quarantine and preventive containment measures on the islands.

The extension comes with the renewal of Torres' executive orders 2020-04, as amended, and 2020-07, directing the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., the CNMI Homeland Security & Emergency Management Office, and all necessary agencies, to undertake COVID-19 containment measures through emergency directives to

protect and safeguard the community.

The impact of COVID-19, being a highly contagious disease with no confirmed treatment yet, cannot be understated, and action is necessary to protect the health and safety of the children, senior citizens, businesses, and all other CNMI residents and visitors, according to the governor.

Under the new extended emergency declaration, all memoranda, directives, waivers of regulations, and other measures taken in accordance with the executive orders 2020-04 and 2020-07 remain in place. This includes directives on social distancing and curfew that government offices, businesses, public and private organizations, and the community in general must comply with.

To date, the CNMI has had a total of 36 COVID-19 cases, with two deaths, and six currently active.



IN HONOR OF YOUNIS

Members of the House of Representatives present a resolution to the family of the late Abed E. Younis, founding publisher of the longest running newspaper in the CNMI, *Marianas Variety*, yesterday in recognition of and to honor his life, work, and legacy in the Commonwealth.

IVA MAURIN

CHCC

From Page 1

tion system analyst Victoria Shirriff, shows where an infected person was staying within the last 14 days when they were diagnosed. She said the community can see all the information in one sitting, rather than searching for "fragmented pieces."

"They're not really clusters, but they are where that person was staying within the past 14 days when they were diagnosed and this kind of helps community members gauge their risk because this is where that individual might have been going out more into that part of the community," said Shirriff.

One important thing to keep in mind, Shirriff said, is that the mapping doesn't give anyone a "free pass" if their precinct has had no COVID-19 cases. Because Saipan is

a small island, the virus doesn't discriminate and can infect people not just based on where someone lives, she added.

CHCC chief operations officer Subroto Banerji clarified, though that every individual's privacy is crucial, so the mapping is just the "beginning tip of the spear" on opportunities for CHCC to give people who will benefit the most from the information.

"The denominator allows for much better visualization of those data. So it's sort of a double-edged sword. We wish we didn't have that many cases, but now that we do, we are able to use these tools much more effectively," said Banerji.

According to their data, of the 36 of the CNMI's confirmed cases, 21 are male and 15 are female and over 10,697 residents (or 21% of the population) have already been tested for COVID-19.

The CNMI now has a total of 36 confirmed cases, with two deaths and six active cases.

The dashboard is available on CHCC's website at <https://chcc.gov.mp/#gsc.tab=0>.

COVID-19 on Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, one case tested positive at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and did not report recent travel or contact to a confirmed case.

To date, Guam has had a total of 314 cases, with five deaths, 214 released from isolation, and 95 active cases. Of those cases, 267 are classified as civilians and 47 are military service members.

COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at varying times of the day. JIC will report cumulative COVID-19 test results once a day, unless unavailable.

1ST BATCH

From Page 1

will be inclusive of both PUA and FPUC awards.

"We express our sincerest appreciation to everyone in our community for their patience during these unprecedented times. We fully recognize the challenges and struggles, and we hope that as people start receiving their much-deserved payouts, some semblance of normalcy will happen," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. "We ask that we all heal from these challenges and look forward to helping lift each other as we continue to get PUA payments out."

"We thank both secretary of Labor Vicky Benavente, secretary of Finance David Atalig, and their respective teams and staff for their hard work in adjudicating claims and for expeditiously processing these payouts. We will continue to update the community as we get additional payments out," said Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

"Here at the CNMI Department of Labor, we have been working hard every day since our first PUA meetings with the U.S. Department of Labor to get benefits out. We sincerely thank everyone for their patience, and we will continue to process additional approvals in the days and weeks ahead so that we can ensure every eligible applicant receives their benefits," said Benavente.

PUA and FPUC lump sum payments will vary per qualifying person based on their weekly filings. Payments will be retroactive all the way back to when they first were affected

by COVID-19 and up to the dates of allowable claims.

As all those affected receive these initial payouts, more payouts will come in batches for those who continue to qualify. Those who have submitted paper applications continue to be processed and should be receiving communication from a member of the CNMI Department of Labor. Those who filled out online applications through www.hiremarianas.com will also be contacted to update their information or provide supporting information.

PUA runs from February to December 2020, and FPUC runs from March to July 31, both dependent on the dates you were affected. Again, these payments are retroactive from the start of when their employment was affected by COVID-19.

"CNMI DOL has been in communication with USDOL on the funding needs to support both programs. Claims can still be made for those affected by COVID-19 and qualify for the programs. The first allotment awarded to the CNMI is a portion of our entire request, and look forward to working with our federal counterparts to receive additional funds to pay for qualified claims for both PUA/FPUC," said Benavente.

We continue to encourage individuals to apply for PUA/FPUC and continue to request for people to apply online via www.hiremarianas.com so that their claims can be processed quicker than filing paper-based claims.

Those with questions are encouraged to email Info@puamarianas.com as phone lines are tied up for verification of information. (PR)

US holds 2nd round of Compact consultations with FSM, Palau

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Representatives of the U.S. government and teams from both the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau have concluded a second round of consultations regarding certain expiring provisions of their respective Compact of Free Association agreements.

In a statement from the U.S. Department of the Interior, it said that the U.S. and both countries continue to “move

forward” in discussions and that the U.S. government team also held an informal consultation with the Republic of the Marshall Islands, which has its own Compact agreement with the United States.

The U.S. team is composed of Douglas W. Domenech, U.S. Department of the Interior assistant secretary, Insular and International Affairs, and U.S. Department of State Ambassador Karen B. Stewart.

“We are pleased that our

conversations with each of the teams continue in the spirit of partnership, collaboration, and mutual respect,” said Domenech. “Under the leadership of the Trump administration, the special relationships with the freely associated states under the Compacts of Free Association remain strong, underscoring the United States’ longstanding commitment.”

“Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are making progress on these important conversations. This is a testament to our strong relation-

ships and desire to achieve the best outcomes for citizens of our countries,” said Stewart.

Domenech and Stewart were named in April co-negotiators to lead the federal government in bilateral discussions on the Compacts of Free Association with the FSM, the RMI, and Palau.

In May 2020, an initial round of consultations was held with each of the freely associated states related to the expiring provisions of the Compact of Free Association agreements, Public Law 108-188, with the RMI and the FSM and on expiring provi-

sions of the Section 432 Review of the Compact of Free Association, Public Law 99-658, with Palau.

On Aug. 5, 2019, U.S. Department of State Secretary Michael R. Pompeo announced negotiations with the FSM, RMI, and Palau during an historic visit to Pohnpei where he met with FSM President David W. Panuelo, then-RMI President Hilda C. Heine, and Palau Vice President Raynold B. Oilouch.

On May 21, 2019, President Donald J. Trump hosted Palau President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., then-RMI

President Hilda C. Heine, and FSM President David W. Panuelo at the White House for an historic visit. This was the first time that all three leaders from the freely associated states were hosted together at the White House by a United States president, demonstrating the special partnership between the United States and the FAS. Interior Secretary David Bernhardt also met with the three presidents during their visit to Washington in affirmation of the unique role and responsibilities Interior holds in these relationships. (PR)

45-day comment period on Marine Corps relocation to Guam

ASAN, Guam—Naval Facilities Engineering Command Marianas announces the availability of two Programmatic Agreement Memos for public review and comments through Aug. 12, 2020.

PA Memos provide an opportunity for interested members of the public to participate in the Section 106 consultation process required under the National Historic Preservation Act.

The following PA Memos provides new cultural and natural resources information associated with planned construction projects and are available on the NAVFAC Pacific Cultural Information webpage at <http://go.usa.gov/kZWG>. (Please note the URL is case sensitive).

■ J-200-II AAFB North Ramp Utilities II – Communications Line: This project proposes to conduct design studies and subsequently construct telecommunications infrastructure consisting of an underground distribution of communications fiber optic cabling in concrete encased duct banks and manholes at

Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

■ J-609 Apra Harbor Embarkation Operations Facilities - Design: This project proposes to design an embarkation facility for loading and unloading with associated utilities and improvements in the Apra Harbor area of U.S. Naval Base, Guam.

This is a 45-day public comment period and interested members of the community may submit comments via email to criwebcomment@navy.mil.

Those without internet access may obtain a printed copy of this PA Memo from the Guam Historic Resources Division, located at 490 Chalan Palasyo, Agaña Heights, 96910 (in the Department of Parks and Recreation Office).

In addition, the community is encouraged to subscribe to regular updates and other information related to the Programmatic Agreement by visiting the Joint Region Marianas (JRM) web page and signing up at the following link: <https://go.usa.gov/x5BQS>. (USN)

Diabetes and Your Dental Health!

- Did you know that people with diabetes are more vulnerable to the millions of germs that live in your mouth?
- Did you know that people with diabetes are more likely to have infections of their gums and the bones that hold the teeth in place?
- Did you know that diabetes also causes a decrease in blood supply to gums making them more susceptible to the disease?
- Did you know that high blood sugars may cause dry mouth and make gum disease worse? (The decrease in saliva can cause an increase in tooth decaying bacteria and plaque build up.)

If you have diabetes, be sure to have a dental checkup at least twice a year.

Remember, you CAN prevent diabetes.

AWARD-WINNING
DENTISTS

DR. NELSON KRUM
DR. RICHARD ARBUCKLE



Paradise Dental



Middle Road, Gualo Rai

234-4040

paradisedentalsaipan@gmail.com
www.paradisedentalspa.com

Clearance sale on electrical parts, light bulbs and fixtures, sound systems, commercial kitchen appliances, plumbing fixtures, tiles, and heavy equipments.



**TARO SUE CORPORATION
ONE-STOP SHOP**

Middle Road, next to Sugar King Park

Open from Monday-Saturday 9:00am-5:00pm and Sunday from 10:00am-4:00pm

Located along Chalan Pale Arnold Road, Garapan

Telephone Number (670)234-5416/7

'More suffering for Rota due to accounting discrepancy'

By IVA MAURIN

iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Mangloña (Ind-Rota) is calling out the Department of Finance for "unreasonably" holding back funds for the Rota delegation, as well as its delay in resolving an over-a-year old accounting discrepancy over general funds, which he said is causing people in the First Senatorial District to suffer more.

In a letter to Finance Secretary David Atalig, Mangloña said that the Finance Department has yet to remit to the delegation more than \$2.4 million, even after its outstanding balance is settled.

The senator's move is in response to Finance's recent

certification of Rota's outstanding obligation, which is what is reportedly holding up the passage at the Senate of House Bill 21-116, which could aid Rota medical referral patients and hemodialysis and terminally-ill patients.

According to the senator, the obligations of the Saipan and Tinian delegations are no different, and that the Tinian Legislative Delegation account shows that the general fund owes it approximately \$1 million.

Mangloña also pointed out the "unreasonable treatment" being accorded Rota, noting that the Tinian and Saipan legislative delegations respectively have \$1.77 million and \$6.358 million in outstanding obligations compared to Rota's \$331,709, should

Finance take hold that Year 5 and half of Year 6 shares have yet to be allotted.

"If your office takes the position that Year 5 funding (\$2 million) was never allotted to the respective delegations, although Public Law 20-10 specifically appropriated the replenishment of said account, and that Year 6's balance of \$1 million also has yet to be allotted, then yes, you are technically correct that the Rota delegation owes the general fund \$331,709," Mangloña's letter said. "But by the same token, the Tinian Legislative Delegation will then owe the general fund more



Mangloña

than five times more, in the amount of \$1.772 million. Likewise, [the] Saipan Legislative Delegation will then owe the general fund more than \$6.358 million."

The delay in resolving this accounting discrepancy, Mangloña said, is inflicting more suffering on the people of Rota because Atalig's certification letter prevents H.B. 21-116, passed unanimously by the House last month, from being considered for passage in the Senate.

"We understand our local

Man allegedly beats up 60-year-old mother, shoves 70-year-old father

A 31-year-old man who is allegedly mentally ill reportedly beat up his 60-year-old mother and pushed his 70-year-old father to the floor when the father tried to pacify him at their home in Sadog Tasi last July 5.

Christopher Nelsin Seidler was arrested and taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing last week on charges of assault and battery, disturbing the peace, domestic violence, and senior citizen physical abuse and/or mental cruelty.

A police officer observed what appears to be scratch marks on the mother's left eye and nose, and noticed swelling on her left upper cheek.

According to police detective Harley Derbai Erich, the CNMI Department of Public Safety dispatch unit received a report last July at 2:58pm about a disturbance at the victims' house in Sadog Tasi.

Erich said the preliminary investigation showed that Seidler had been agitated on

economy is in severe distress, are aware of the significant reduction in the general fund resources, and realize the impacts of this reduction on our public operations and services. However, these appropriations for terminally ill, hemodialysis, and interisland medical referral patients are not funded through the general fund. These are funded by way of special appropriations from annual casino license fees through the respective delegation allotments," he said.

The senator said he does not understand why the Finance Department cannot extend the

that day, saying that enemies were out to kill him. When the mother asked him who was trying to kill him, he got more agitated and grabbed his mother by the hair. Seidler then dragged his mother to the garage where he slapped and punched her repeatedly. The father intervened and told Seidler to get off from his mother. The defendant, however, allegedly shoved his father to the ground.

The mother, who was bloodied with the injuries, later managed to dial 911 for assistance. Seidler went back inside the house and locked the doors.

The police officers that responded arrested Seidler and brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center for psychiatric evaluation. Seidler was then held for 72 hours for observation at CHC.

Seidler was set to appear for a bail hearing before Superior Court Associate Judge Ken-

same financial flexibility consideration to the Rota Legislative Delegation that is being given to the two other legislative delegations.

"This is very concerning because the Rota delegation has attempted to resolve this apparent discrepancy in your department's accounting of annual fund allocation for more than a year now. ...On behalf of our patients, I ask for your assistance in immediately resolving these accounting discrepancies so that critical funding will be made available to our patients," Mangloña stated.

neth L. Govendo last week Thursday, but he was allegedly not cooperating with Department of Corrections officers. After being informed of the situation, Govendo reset the hearing to the following day, Friday, last week, before Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

At last Friday's hearing, a DOC officer informed Camacho that Seidler refused to appear in court. Camacho instructed the DOC officer to use necessary non-lethal force to secure and bring the defendant to court in 30 minutes. The DOC officer later came back with the defendant. Camacho then held the bail hearing. He ordered that the bail shall remain at \$7,500 cash and set the preliminary hearing for today, Friday, at 10am.

Assistant attorney general Steven Kessel appeared for the government. Assistant public defender Carrie Comstock was appointed as counsel for Seidler. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

SPACE FOR RENT

Located at Middle Road corner
Quarter Master, Chalan Laulau

Office – 3,200 sq. ft.

Warehouse – 6,000 sq. ft.



WUSHIN
Since 1983 Committed to Safety Excellence

Please call us at 322-8733/7415 or send email to
wushin2@pticom.com for more inquiry.

Brilliant Star Montessori School Teacher Aide needed August, 2020

Duties are to assist the lead teacher, preparing curriculum materials as directed, setting up and cleaning up each day. Also to supervise children using materials as directed. Mandarin and English speaking preferred. Previous knowledge of Montessori pedagogy and experience working with young children a plus. U.S. citizens and/or permanent residents are preferred.

Contact Steven Beyer at
principal@brilliantstar.org.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-20-006

Archaeological Services for S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from Archaeologists or firms that meet the U.S. Department of Interior qualifications (36CFR61) to create a work plan, to prepare information, data and documentation needed to conduct Section 106 Review of the National Historic Preservation Act for FY19 for the construction of a sewerline replacement in Lower MIHA & the construction of a waterline replacement in San Antonio, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval of the USEPA.

The projects have been broken down into the following detail:

S19-068 Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) – This project proposes to install approximately 700 linear feet of new 8-inch gravity sewer pipe in order to abandon an existing collapsed sewerline that was installed on private property. The project includes the installation of new manholes and the reconnection of existing sewer service laterals to the new sewer main.

W19-070 Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement – The project aims to upgrade and replace the existing ACP distribution main in San Antonio Village. This project will install about 2.1 miles of new 6-inch distribution main and .50 miles of 4-inch distribution main. The project will also include the replacement of all fire hydrants, gate valves, relocation and reconnection of existing service laterals, installation of new flush hydrants, air release valves, and asphalt road restoration.

The scope of Archaeological Services will include, but not be limited to:

- Conducting the necessary research and fieldwork that represents a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, to include archaeological resources, as set out in the regulations 36 CFR § 800.4(b)(1):
 - Background research design and work plan;
 - Archival background information;
 - Sample field investigation, and field survey;
 - Past planning, research and studies;
 - The magnitude and nature of the undertaking;
 - The degree of federal involvement;
 - The nature and extent of potential effects on historic properties within the APE;
 - The likely nature, identification and location of historic properties within the APE; and,
 - Create a mitigation plan to resolve adverse effects.
- Preparation of the necessary reports and letters for submittal to various federal and local resource agencies to address environmental requirements of Section 106 to completely secure concurrence for the projects ready for construction.
- Deliverables
 - 2 copies of the final report for review and approval to HPO and CUC, and
 - Map showing the location of identified historic properties which would assist with alignment of the new waterline and sewerline to avoid such properties.

The RFP package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one RFP package set.

One (1) original and five (5) hard copies of the PROPOSAL must be submitted in a SEALED ENVELOPE marked "CUC-RFP-20-006: Archaeological Services For Construction of Island Wide Sewerline Replacement (Lower MIHA) & Construction of San Antonio Waterline Replacement" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **August 14, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible proposers who submit proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. All proposers shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from the proposal submitted by competing proposers.

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the RFP requirements in the course of proposer's preparation of the RFP under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the RFP under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on July 27, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, Water/Wastewater Engineer, via email address nicole.villagomez@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said RFP, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLÁN
Purchasing Administrator

Francisco and Anicia Tudela
Saipan, MP 96950
Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of)
The Adoption of:)
A.L.D.T.)
(Child's NEW) FCD-AD-
Name –) CIVIL ACTION
INITIALS ONLY), NO. 20-0183
Minor Child)
By:) NOTICE OF
Anicia Duenas Tudela) HEARING
Francisco Sablan Tudela)
Petitioner(s))

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing August 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom Marianas Business Plaza, before the Associate Judge Kim Tenorio.

Dated this 25th day of June, 2020.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

MARK SCOGGINS
SCOGGINS LAW OFFICE, LLC
2nd Floor, MIC Building, Chalan Monsignor
Guerrero, San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950-1127
Telephone Nos.: (670) 234-7455 / 7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorney for Michele O. Joab, Petitioner.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re The Estate of) Civil Action No. 20-0220-
FAUSTINO) NOTICE OF HEARING /
METTAA OLOPAL,) NOTICE TO PROBATE and
Deceased) Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE HEIRS, GENERAL PUBLIC AND
CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS
ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that the Petitioner, Michele O. Joab, has filed a Petition For Probate of Will, Appointment of Executor and Letters Testamentary in the above-entitled Estate proceeding pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 15.

A hearing on the petition will be conducted by the Court on **August 6, 2020 at 10:00 am** in the Supreme Court Courtroom. All persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the hearing and show cause, if any, why the order should not be made.

Pursuant to NMI R. Prob. P 21, notice is hereby given to all creditors of the Decedent or his Estate that they must file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of the publication of this notice. A copy of the claim of any creditor should be sent to Attorney Mark Scoggins at the above indicated address.

Reference is hereby made to the petition for further particulars.

SO NOTICED this 13th day of July, 2020.
/s/ Joseph N. Camacho
Associate Judge

VINCENT J. SEMAN, CNMI Bar No. F-0361
Seman Law Offices, LLC
JET Realty Bldg., Suite 204
P.O. Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 323-2115
E-mail: vjseman@semanlaw.com

Attorney for: Petitioner Annie T. Pickelsimer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN MATTER OF) Civil Action No. 20-0224-CV
THE ESTATE OF) NOTICE OF HEARING ON
ROSITA TERLAJE) PETITION TO PROBATE and
PANGELINAN,) NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Deceased) Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 10:00 AM
Time: Joseph N. Camacho

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS,
CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE ROSITA
TERLAJE PANGELINAN OR OF HER ESTATE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Petitioner, Annie T. Pickelsimer, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of **ROSITA TERLAJE PANGELINAN**, "Decedent". The attorney for Petitioner is Vincent J. Seman, Esq., whose address is JET Building, Suite 204, Chalan Pale Arnold, Gualo Rai, PO Box 10001 PMB 168, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing on the Petition to probate the Estate of Decedent by Petitioner is scheduled to be heard on August 6, 2020 at 10:00 am, at Supreme Court Courtroom, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors or entities having claims against the Decedent or her estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within Sixty (60) days of the first publication, or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to VINCENT J. SEMAN, Esq. at his address herein-above indicated.

Dated this 14 July 2020.

By: /s/ _____
CLERK OF COURT

Hundreds of travelers to Guam quarantined over virus fears

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)— Nearly 400 people who returned to Guam from coronavirus hotspots were in government-imposed quarantine at three island hotels.

Many of the travelers arrived from the continental United States, where the number of new cases has steadily risen.

Guam's regulations were implemented two weeks ago by Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero.

People coming from high-risk areas must quarantine for 14 days. If travelers tested negative within 72 hours of leaving for Guam, they

can self-quarantine at home.

Without a negative test, they must quarantine at a government facility.

Current facilities being used by the government are the Wyndham Garden Hotel, with 178 quarantined people,

Oceanview Garden Court with 139, and Bayview Hotel with 78.

There have been 312 con-

firmed cases of COVID-19 on Guam, with 97 active cases and five deaths as of Tuesday.

Tinian Diamond Hotel now open

Bridge Investment Group announced the opening of the new Tinian Diamond Hotel earlier this month.

The hotel had a soft opening in the month of February but the official opening, which only happened last July 1, got pushed back due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The boutique hotel is located in San Jose Village and offers 17 appointed rooms with many having balconies where guests can enjoy ocean views. Other services near the hotel include the American Gun Club, the outdoor firearm shooting range, and the Tinian Diamond Casino that is targeted for a December 2020 opening.

According to BIG chair Kacy Meng, the Tinian Diamond Hotel is the first of the company's hospitality investments to open, to be followed with the launch of the Sand Diamond ferry service. "[Sand Diamond] is a passenger and car ferry capable of carrying 290 passengers and 30 vehicles between Tinian and Saipan daily," said Meng.

"The Tinian Diamond Hotel now provides Tinian with much-needed additional room capacity for both international and domestic visitors wishing to experience the rich history, culture, and warm hospitality of our island," said Tinian Mayor Edwin Aldan. "I am grateful to BIG for their continued commitment to bringing world-class hospitality offerings to Tinian."

A special grand opening discount of 15% off the rates published on the website are available to CNMI residents from July to the end of September. The special rates can be booked using the coupon "Holiday" when booking online at www.tiniandiamondhotel.com or by emailing info@tiniandiamondhotel.com. (Chevy Alipio)



BEACH CLEANUP

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality staff and volunteers collected a total of 1,020 lbs of trash in just two hours of cleanup at the Coral Ocean Point beach last Saturday.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Story on
Page 13



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor

Office of the Secretary
1356 Mednilla Avenue | Capitol Hill | P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 664-3196
Web: www.marianaslabor.net



NOTICE TO EMPLOYERS

In accordance with Employment Rules and Regulations of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC), the CNMI Department of Labor (CNMI DOL) mandates compliance of the following for all eligible private sector employers. Failure or refusal to comply is cause for CNMI DOL to issue a Notice of Violation to the employer which may result in fines and other sanctions following a due process hearing in the Administrative Hearing Office.

1. Post Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on CNMI DOL website

An employer who intends to employ a foreign national worker, transitional worker, or nonimmigrant alien on a full-time basis (under any new employment arrangement, any renewal of any existing employment arrangement, or any transfer) must post a Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA) on the CNMI DOL website at www.marianaslabor.net. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(a). No waiver is available for the job vacancy announcement requirement. NMIAC § 80-20.1-225(e).

2. Submit Total Workforce Listing

Each business employer **shall report quarterly**, as of the last day of the calendar quarter, **the number of employees, job classification, and the hourly wage** of employees for whom wages were paid during the quarter. NMIAC § 80-20.1-505(b) (emphasis added). The Department requires employers to present this information in a document called "Total Workforce Listing," via email: documents@marianaslabor.net (Excel format).

The Total Workforce Listing is due each quarter:

1st Quarter (January - March).....	due on April 30
2nd Quarter (April - June).....	due on July 31
3rd Quarter (July - September).....	due on October 31
4th Quarter (October - December).....	due on January 31

Attention: The Total Workforce Listing for the 2nd Quarter 2020 is due on or before July 31, 2020. Online submissions may be emailed to documents@marianaslabor.net (in Excel format) or delivered to the DOL Administrative Service Office, Building #1356, Capitol Hill. Online submissions are preferable.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR ROTA AND TINIAN EMPLOYERS

- An employer with multiple job sites in any of the Mariana Islands must submit a separate report for each island. For example, if an organization employs workers for job sites in Saipan and Tinian then the employer must file two separate quarterly compliance reports (one for Saipan and another for Tinian).
- Rota employers must email employment reports to documents@marianaslabor.net and dolrota@gmail.com or delivered to the Rota DOL Field Office at Antonio C. Atalg Memorial Building, Tatachong Village.
- Tinian employers must email employment reports to documents@marianaslabor.net and tiniandiamondhotel@gmail.com or delivered to the Tinian DOL Field Office at Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor, San Jose Village.

3. Adhere to Workforce Participation Minimum Percentage requirement

Any employer, unless exempt, who employs workers on a full-time basis must certify that 30% or more of its full-time employees are U.S. citizens, U.S. permanent residents, and/or CNMI permanent residents. 3 CMC § 4525 and NMIAC § 80-20.1-210(c)(3). Failure to maintain a minimum percentage of 30% will result in a Notice of Violation filed against the employer.

4. Submit new or updated Workforce Plan

All employers who employ nonimmigrant alien workers, unless exempt, must submit a new or updated Workforce Plan every twelve months. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(c). A workforce plan shall identify specific positions currently occupied by a foreign national worker and timetable for accomplishing the replacement of the foreign national worker with qualified U.S. citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and U.S. permanent residents until the workforce participation objective is met. NMIAC § 80-20.1-510(b). The Workforce Plan form is available on the CNMI DOL website under Forms & Publications at www.marianaslabor.net.

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

NEW ARRIVAL

LAVATORY FAUCET,
MIRROR, GARDEN TOOLS,
G.I. PIPES, SQUARE
TUBES,
SHORING JACK PIPE,
ROOFING TIN
& MANY MORE
ABS, CPVC, PVC,
CONDUIT PIPES
& FITTINGS ARE
ALL MADE IN USA
ELECTRICAL TOOLS,
WATER HEATER &
WINDOWS

NEW ARRIVAL Furniture



*Make a Difference
for Your House!*



NEW ARRIVALS! VALSPAR PAINT

It's the suitable paint for the island climate. Makes your paint last for a long time!



LED LIGHTS

- Less money, 50% energy saving!
- More stable, bright, and fashionable!
- More longer and environmental protection!

Your Smart Choice!

G60 Rebar is Available Now!

**CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR
CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!**

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488

E-mail: guangdong_hardware@163.com

BUSINESS HOURS:
Monday to Saturday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Nominees sought for the 2020 Bridge of Light award

To honor and thank those who have helped the CNMI community, the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence is seeking nominations for its annual Bridge of Light Award.

The award is given to honor one extraordinary individual or community hero who has worked diligently to provide safety for the community, to work to end domestic violence and sexual assault, and to be a "Bridge of Light" for victims and survivors in the CNMI.

Those eligible for the award include service providers, first responders, representatives, or volunteers at one or more eligible agencies, organizations or offices in the CNMI. The nominee must have been employed/volunteered for a minimum of one year and/or have demonstrated one or more ex-

traordinary accomplishments to help sustain the movement. The nominee must also show dedication and effort in the areas of leadership, service, advocacy for victims, prevention, community education or mobilization, and resource development.

Nominations may be submitted by a victim or survivor; a member, representative, and/or volunteer of NMCADSV and/or the Family Violence Task Force; or an employee, representative, and/or volunteer at eligible CNMI agencies, organizations, or offices. To verify if an agency, organization, or office may nominate, contact NMCADSV at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org.

Nominations may be submitted online through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BOLA2020WebLink>.

The deadline to submit a completed nomination form is 11:59pm on Friday, Sept. 11, 2020.

Those making the nomination are urged to be as detailed and thorough as possible on the form to show why their nominee is deserving of the award. Those evaluating nominations will consider nominees based only on the information provided.

The recipient of the award will be announced during the Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Signing Ceremony in October. The recipient will also be presented with the opportunity to attend a retreat or training courtesy of NMCADSV and a Self-Care Gift Package sponsored by the Tan Siu Lin Foundation.

Past recipients include De-

partment of Public Safety's officer Flora Aguon, Karidat Social Services executive director Lauri B. Ogunoro, Division of Youth Services social worker Mildred W. Sikebert,

Karidat Social Services counselor Elaine C. Dela Cruz, Ayuda Network Inc. executive director Diana Camacho, the Attorney General Office Victim Advocate John Aguon,

and most recently, DYS director Vivian T. Sablan.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the coalition at (670) 234-3878 or email info@endviolencenmi.org. (PR)

Rota resumes community testing

With Tinian registering its first COVID-19 case, the neighboring island of Rota assured that it remains free of the virus and underscored this position by resuming its community-based testing last July 15.

"The most viable plan right now is the concentration and screening as well as vetting incoming passengers to follow the procedures for entering the Commonwealth from areas that are prone or known for COVID-19," said Ivan T. Mereb, press officer of the Rota Mayor's Office.

Additionally, Mereb said

that the community of Rota is on high alert since the island is closer to Guam—where COVID-19 infections are happening more—than Saipan and Tinian. Upon hearing the news about the first two confirmed COVID-19 cases on Saipan last March 30, it brought more stress to the community.

"The community was very alarmed that it got so close to home. I mean, Guam was one regional area away from the Marianas, but having it on Saipan brought the stress level as well as the anxiety level on Rota into a high peak,"



said Mereb.

According to Vanessa Quitugua, resident director of Rota's local health center, 564 people on Rota have already been tested.

"All specimens came back negative and [there have been] no positive cases so far. The last CBT was conducted at the airport on June 13, and we will be resuming this week here at Rota Health Center on Wednesday," said Quitugua.

Rota's CBT program is scheduled every Wednesday and Thursday from 1pm to 4pm.

To date, the CNMI has 36 confirmed cases with six active cases and two deaths. (Justine Nauta)


NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY:
FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE


The U.S. Air Force announces the availability of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Tinian Divert Infrastructure Improvements.

TINIAN DIVERT BACKGROUND. In September 2016, the U.S. Air Force (Air Force) completed the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Divert Activities and Exercises (2016 Divert EIS). The 2016 Divert EIS evaluated the proposal to construct facilities and infrastructure at the Saipan and/or Tinian airports to support cargo, tanker, and similar aircraft and associated support personnel for divert operations, periodic exercises, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on December 7, 2016 and announced the Air Force decision to select the Modified Tinian Alternative North Option (2016 Divert EIS, Section 2.5.2), as a future Divert location. After the ROD was signed, the Air Force conducted further evaluation of fuel transfer methods and associated infrastructure on Tinian, including the feasibility of different alternatives that were not considered in the 2016 Divert EIS.

PROPOSED ACTIONS AND ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Air Force has prepared a Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) that analyzes the potential environmental consequences associated with the proposal to construct and operate a fuel pipeline from the Tinian seaport to Tinian International Airport, to include associated infrastructure at the Tinian seaport. The proposed pipeline would eliminate the need for bulk fuel storage tanks at the Tinian seaport and the need for fuel tanker trucks to transport fuel from the seaport to the airport, both analyzed in the 2016 Divert EIS. The Air Force is considering two alternatives for the pipeline route, an East route and a West route. The Air Force has identified the East route as the Preferred Alternative for the pipeline. The Final SEIS also analyzes the Air Force proposal to improve certain existing roads between the Tinian seaport and airport that would be used to support Divert activities.



OBTAIN AND REVIEW THE FINAL SEIS. In accordance with NEPA and the Air Force regulations for implementing NEPA, the Air Force is making the Final SEIS available to the public. Notification of availability of the Final SEIS has been sent to those on the Tinian Divert project mailing list, and compact discs and hardcopies have been mailed to the document repositories indicated below. However, delays in the mail delivery systems (e.g., U.S. Postal Service and FedEx) could occur due to COVID-19 concerns. For more immediate access to the Final SEIS files, *please visit the project website at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com*, where the Final SEIS files are available for review and download. Document repositories include:

Saipan: Saipan Mayor's Office, Joeten-Kiyu Public Library

Tinian: Tinian Mayor's Office, Tinian Public Library

For further information on the Final SEIS, please:

- Visit the project website at www.PACAFDivertMarianasEIS.com where you can download the Final SEIS files or request additional information on the "Comment" tab, or
- Contact Ms. Julianne Turko at julianne.turko.1@us.af.mil or at Julianne Turko, AFCEC/CZN; Attn: Tinian Divert SEIS; 2261 Hughes Ave, Suite 155; JBSA-Lackland, TX; 78236-9853.


COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION


PUBLIC NOTICE

AMENDMENT NO. 1
This Notice is paid by NMHC with HUD funds.

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel: (670) 234-9447/6866

This notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or after **July 08, 2020 August 03, 2020** the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Honolulu Field Office, for the release of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake the following projects and purposes in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Project/Activity Type	Purpose	Location	Total Project Cost
Renovation and Expansion of the Tanapag Youth Center	Construct new extension building; Rehabilitate existing building.	Tanapag, Saipan	\$200,000.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the above-listed projects will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied during regular work hours, Monday through Friday except CNMI or Austerly Holidays, from 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

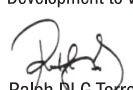
Any individual, group or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 or direct delivery to the central office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received by **July 08, 2020 August 03, 2020, 4:30 p.m.**, will be considered by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD Honolulu Field Office that the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and Governor Ralph DLG. Torres consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and related laws and authorities, and allows the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program Funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development HUD Honolulu Field Office will accept objections to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures of 24 CFR Part 58 and shall be addressed to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Honolulu Field Office **4132 Bishop Street, Suite 1400, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813** by email to CPD Honolulu Field Office: CPDHonolulu@hud.gov and CPD_COVID-19OEE-HNL@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to verify the actual last day of the objection period.


 Ralph DLG. Torres
 Governor, CNMI



20 INTERNATIONAL
19 COASTAL CLEANUP
cnmi



1,617
volunteers participated



9,427 lbs.
of trash collected



76
locations cleaned



Saturday
SEPTEMBER 19

HARNESSING THE POWER OF PEOPLE TO FIGHT OCEAN POLLUTION

Locally led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM), the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is the world's largest single-day cleanup event with the goal of collecting and documenting trash littering our coastlines and waterways. Volunteers from states and territories throughout the U.S. and over 100 countries worldwide come together every year and participate in the cleanup event near them. The two layers of science and community service is what distinguishes the ICC from everyday cleanups. The data collected during the ICC is entered into Ocean Conservancy's Global Trash Database and is crucial to solving the world's ocean pollution problem.



Participants will adopt a location (beach, community area, or roadside) and are asked to tally data while collecting debris. Supplies, including trash bags, gloves, and data sheets, can be provided upon request. Trash hauling and disposal will be taken care of by DCRM, with assistance from the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance (MINA).

We would like to remind the public to practice proper social distancing and hand hygiene while participating in this year's cleanup event. Although DCRM is unable to provide face masks, we would like to encourage all participants to take precautionary measures to ensure the health and safety of our volunteers.

SIGN UP TODAY AT *www.dcrm.gov.mp*

For more information, contact the ICC Coordinator
Colleen Flores
cflores@dcrm.gov.mp
(670) 664-8300 / 8316



SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GO DIRECTLY TO DCRM'S WEBSITE!

Scan me

Opinion

Hafa Adai! Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXX, Issue No. 141Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR
jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Make internet access available to all

In Congress, both parties finally agree that the United States has fallen too far behind on providing high-speed internet and that action is necessary to connect millions of Americans.

But in typical Washington fashion, how to solve the problem has become a point of contention.

Fortunately, room for compromise is great, and Congress should work to find the middle ground for the benefit of the country.

The House recently passed a \$100 billion “universal fiber broadband plan” with votes coming down almost entirely along party lines. The Accessible, Affordable Internet for All Act, introduced by Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., and co-sponsored by Rep. Mike Doyle, D-Pa., would create an \$80 billion fiber infrastructure program run by a new “Office of Internet Connectivity and Growth” that would coordinate broadband deployment in all 50 states.

The remaining \$20 billion would facilitate other projects, such as improving remote learning capabilities for low-income students and establishing digital inclusion projects for organizations and local communities.

Advocates for the Democrats’ proposal point to the legislation’s potential to both provide thousands of jobs and end the digital divide that has plagued rural and low-income communities throughout America. The Federal Communications Commission has estimated that 14 million Americans are without internet access and 25 million are without reliable high-speed broadband service.

But that figure is likely an underestimate because the FCC data is based on census blocks, not households. A 2019 study by Microsoft puts the number of people without broadband service closer to 163 million.

Republicans also have put forward plans to address the issue. Sens. Roger Wicker, R-Miss., and Marsha Blackburn, D-Tenn., recently introduced an internet access expansion bill that allocates \$6 billion for broadband. A separate plan, introduced by Mr. Wicker and Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore., lacks dollar figures but promises funding and “regulatory relief” for telecommunications companies.

The gulf between the Democratic and Republican proposals is vast—the Republicans’ \$6 billion would barely cover the Democrats’ plan for improving remote learning capabilities, let alone expand broadband throughout the entire nation.

But, if there is a silver lining to the disparity between the proposals, it is that there is ample room for compromise. Clyburn and Wicker, along with other engaged colleagues, should collaborate on legislation that bridges the partisan divide, delivering modern internet infrastructure to all Americans, including those who live between the coasts, and creating thousands of jobs in the process.

(c)2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Revival of the Tinian beef industry

Last month the Tinian leadership presented the Strategic Plan for the Tinian Beef Industry to the Tinian community. Tinian’s ranchers and grazing permit holders were invited to this meeting to learn about the plan and have an open discussion about its contents and, more broadly, the commercialization of Tinian’s cattle ranches.

The strategic plan outlines the steps that need to be taken to bring Tinian beef to the market, as well as priorities and challenges facing industry players. In particular it addresses issues such as marketing Tinian beef, the operation of the Tinian Slaughterhouse, achieving commercial-grade product quality, and access to pasture. The strategic plan is by no means a final document, however, and we actively seek continued dialogue with ranchers and other important stakeholders to fine-tune the plan to better fit our island’s needs.

While the plan is still in its infancy, this does not preclude the Tinian leadership from forming the partnerships needed to support the Tinian beef industry. Both the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Cooperative Research and Extension Education Services of the Northern Marianas College have pledged their support for Tinian beef by seeking industry expertise and seed funding. I am also grateful to the Department of Public Lands for their continued support in ensuring our ranchers retain access to their pastures. Furthermore, the Tinian leadership is exploring the possibility of a public-private partnership to help our ranchers bring their products to market. We look forward to building more relationships with stakeholders from both public and private sectors, including our military and other agricultural initiatives on Saipan, Rota and the Northern Islands.

Why beef?

The Tinian leadership believes that Tinian has the foundations to develop a viable, sustainable beef industry. Ranching on Tinian peaked during the Trust Territory era when Ken Jones established the Bar-K ranch on the island. It was during this time that Tinian had, as is commonly said, “more cows than people.” Importantly, the Bar-K ranch and other Tinian ranchers supported regular meat exports to the rest of the Marianas during this era. For instance, in fiscal year 1977, Tinian exported over 180,000 lbs of beef to both Saipan and Guam.

Today Tinian finds itself in an advantageous position to revive its beef industry. There are currently about 1,500 head of cattle belonging to over 30 families on Tinian. While most families run ranches for subsistence, there are more than a few ranchers who export their free-range, grass-fed cattle to Saipan for eventual sale at the Garapan Public Market. The Tinian Cattleman’s Association was established to represent the best interests of our

By **JUDE U. HOFSCHEIDER**
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jude U. Hofschneider is a senator in the 21st Legislature and chairman of the 21st Tinian and Aguiguan Legislative Delegation.

ranchers, and has played an active role in reviving the Tinian beef industry. Most notably, the TCA successfully procured a U.S. Department of Agriculture-certified slaughterhouse in 2018 with the help of the Tinian leadership, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, and a private sector partner. Once operations are established, the Tinian Slaughterhouse will have the capacity to process both cattle and pork in an efficient and sanitary manner.

In sum, the Tinian community, together with its leadership and partners, stands ready to revitalize the Tinian beef industry.

Diversifying resources

Diversifying Tinian’s local economy is a primary objective of the strategic plan. While tourism has made great contributions to our economy in the last two decades, it is unwise to rely solely on a single industry for our livelihood, let alone one as volatile as tourism. In establishing the Tinian beef industry, we can generate the economic activity needed to provide added economic stability for our community. A domestic beef industry means Tinian ranchers can finally achieve their dreams of earning their livelihood off their land and their herd. With domestic commercial beef, there is also opportunity for businesses to develop home-grown value-added products such as sausage, ground beef and jerky, just to name a few. By investing in domestic beef, we can increase demand for workers right here at home: from ranch hands to business managers to slaughterhouse operators, we can create jobs that provide more than just a paycheck but also the social mobility needed to thrive on our islands.

A domestic beef industry will also promote food security for our people. I think we can all agree that food insecurity is one of the most significant issues facing our islands. Over 90% of the food we consume in the CNMI is imported to meet our people’s demand for fresh food, and as such our food supply is incredibly vulnerable to disruptions in global supply chains.

Both Super Typhoon Yutu and the COVID-19 pandemic are

See **REVIVAL** on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The abuse and misuse of CNMI public funds

By JOSE S. DELA CRUZ
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Over the past year, we have heard stories or read news articles about the abuse, misuse, and alleged unlawful expenditure of public funds by certain officials in the CNMI government. Such stories and articles should be extremely disturbing to all the people of the Commonwealth. These allegations and stories about the abuse and misuse of public funds, if indeed true—on the surface—point to acts of corruption by CNMI government officials, and—below the surface—likely involve violations of the CNMI criminal laws.

The recent establishment by CNMI House Speaker Blas Jonathan T. Attao of the House Special Committee on Fiscal Investigations of the Executive Branch is, therefore, not only warranted and necessary. Indeed, it should be applauded. It should be welcomed not just by those who believe that there have been acts of corruption and violations of law committed by certain CNMI public officials. And it should also be supported even by those who believe that these stories and allegations have no basis in fact and are merely unfounded accusations made by individuals who either dislike the leaders of or are not aligned with the CNMI's governing political party.

So why should both side on these public issues support the formal investigation to be conducted by the House Special Committee on Investigations? The basic answer is this: Because if these serious allegations indeed are found to have no basis in fact, then those who believe that these news stories and allegations are baseless will be proven right: there are no acts of corruption committed and there have been no violation of the CNMI criminal law. And that should put the matter to rest.

But if it turns out that these allegations and stories of corruption and violations of law are indeed based on facts and are supported by the evidence, then all the people of the Commonwealth, including those who are aligned with the present Executive Branch officials, should be clearly alarmed at how low the CNMI Government's state of affairs, including our good name and reputation as a people, have sunk. It will have sunk to a "new low," as the expression goes.

To his credit, House Speaker B.J. Attao has appointed to sit as members on the Special Committee on Executive Investiga-

tions four House members from the majority party and four members from the minority—a committee assignment that is both fair and balanced. The speaker cannot be accused of favoritism or bias regarding the investigation into the financial affairs of the Executive Branch that is to be conducted by this ad hoc committee.

A few days ago, the House special committee began its formal investigation. Like other investigative committees of a similar magnitude, the work of the special committee will take some time, so that it could conduct a thorough, balanced, and fair investigation, as well as review the serious allegations and issues raised. Nothing less is warranted, because the very reputation of the Commonwealth is on the line, particularly with respect to our ability and maturity as a people to govern ourselves competently and in accordance with the laws that govern the Commonwealth.

So what are these allegations of financial improprieties that will be investigated by the Special Committee on Executive Investigations? It appears that, based on the news stories and allegations that we have read or heard during the past year, the basic issues involve the unethical or unlawful expenditure of public funds for the personal use of CNMI public officials, such as the buying of electronic equipment, cameras, and other merchandise.

Other issues involve the expenditure of public funds by public officials for the benefit of their personal friends and cronies. Still other issues appear to involve the unauthorized use of public funds, i.e. for a purpose that is not permitted by existing laws or regulations. All of these issues ultimately involve issues of corruption by CNMI public officials.

Some of the allegations of financial improprieties could be easily verified and proven through documentation and/or the testimony of witnesses, such as the claims for reimbursement made and the actual reimbursement given to certain public officials. The special committee could also investigate where a questionable purchase item ended up or with whom. Other allegations of financial improprieties may be more difficult to determine, except through the testimony of the Finance secretary, his staff, and relevant Executive Branch officials, or through actual testimony from the Office of the Public Auditor, the office entrusted by law with and whose very function is to monitor the use and abuse of all CNMI public funds.

So the work of the House special committee is cut out, and we should await its findings and conclusions. But as the committee starts its official investigations, there are other new stories now surfacing about recently incurred questionable expenditures that have been made by certain CNMI public officials that benefit either them personally, and/or their families, friends, and cronies.

The most egregious news stories to come out of the Commonwealth during the past several weeks involve the alleged government financing of "the boating excursion to the Northern Islands" by top officials in the CNMI Executive Branch, based on the quite flimsy excuse "to promote the Northern Islands for the CNMI tourist industry."

This boating excursion, if indeed funded by public funds, constituted an immature and cruel joke on all the people of the Commonwealth. If public money—to the tune of \$59,000, as was reported—was indeed used to finance the boating expedition to the Northern Islands under the guise of promoting the CNMI tourist industry (at a time when the CNMI treasury is \$90 million in the hole), the people of the Commonwealth have clearly been taken for a ride by the CNMI Executive Branch at taxpayer expense. This trip, if indeed funded by taxpayer money, constitutes a "new low" in the abuse and misuse of public funds by CNMI public officials.

Based on what I have read in the local papers a few weeks ago, the idea of advertising the "Northern Islands" for purposes of promoting the CNMI visitor industry first came out publicly (and unexpectedly) during a board meeting of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The CNMI chief executive himself came to the MVA board meeting and reportedly brought up the idea of promoting the Northern Islands—out of nowhere it seems. Why he raised this suggestion in person to the MVA board and staff, at a time when the CNMI Treasury is "\$90 million in the red," is beyond a normal person's comprehension. The idea "to promote the Northern Islands," as the saying goes, is indeed mind-boggling.

I would venture to say that some members of the MVA board were themselves surprised or caught off-guard by such suggestion. The chief executive apparently urged MVA to follow up on his recommendation. And MVA, soon thereafter, apparently contacted the Finance secretary, who apparently approved the funding needed for the boating excursion to the Northern Islands. The Finance secretary, presumably at the request of the CNMI chief executive (who had recommended the trip to promote the Northern Islands) apparently transferred the money needed to fund the boating excursion to the Northern Islands.

Thus, the trip to the Northern Islands took place as the governor had strongly recommended. Indeed, based on news stories that later came out, the chief executive himself and other members of his family went on this trip, together with the people who presumably would promote the Northern Islands on social media. This promotion was apparently the so-called "Deer Meat for Dinner" excursion that the CNMI government apparently funded, presumably on behalf of the MVA, which public entity had apparently never thought of doing before the chief executive made his pitch to the agency board, management, and staff.

This was also the trip in which three or four Sambar deer were let loose on the island of Pagan, presumably to propagate on that island without any prior study being made to determine whether the introduction of a new species to that island would be safe to the other wildlife there and to plants and other organisms that are native to the island.

At a time when the CNMI government has been constantly turning to the federal government for financial aid and other financial assistance, the CNMI chief executive unwisely decides that the CNMI government could afford to "blow" \$60,000 on a vacation to the Northern Islands. At a time when so many of our people are unemployed, have been furloughed, are homeless, or have to rely on federal nutrition assistance from the federal government for their sustenance, the CNMI chief executive decides to have a vacation with his friends at public expense. At a time when CNMI public schools are crying for needed funding because they do not have enough funding to carry out the Public School System's constitutional mandate to educate our children, the CNMI chief executive appear to be telling the people of the CNMI that the trip to the Northern islands is more important than the education of our children.

Very sadly also, there appear to be many enablers of the chief executive. Apparently because of their employment by the CNMI government and the lucrative salary they are receiving, these enablers do not want to advise the chief executive regarding the unethical, wasteful, or apparently unlawful nature of the misuse or abuse of public funds being expended. But as I have been saying in so many of my past opinion pieces, very sadly, the blame for most of the political shenanigans that have been taking place in the CNMI over the past several years ultimately lies with us—the voters of the Commonwealth.

Fortunately, we have another co-equal branch of government—the Legislature—one of whose function is to investigate improprieties in the actions made or taken by CNMI public officials. If the legislative branch of the CNMI government faithfully carries out its duties and responsibilities as mandated by the NMI Constitution, then we are still in safe hands. But if the Legislature forsakes its role as the investigative branch of our government, then democracy in the CNMI, as well as our exercise at self-government, would clearly be at risk. If there is no check by one branch of the CNMI government on the other, then our democracy is in danger of failing. At some point, thereafter, we might begin to see the emergence of a de facto strongman in the clothing of democracy. In other words, our votes at that point would be useless.

For all the reasons stated above, the people of the CNMI should support the work of the House Special Committee on Executive Investigations, so that our exercise in self-government will not fail. Whenever we see our leaders take advantage of our people for their personal gain, we have an obligation to get rid of them; otherwise, our democratic ship of state will sooner or later capsize and sink. We must never permit this to happen. That is why all of our leaders should be held accountable for any financial transgression they commit.

Jose S. Dela Cruz is a former chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court.

REVIVAL

From Page 10

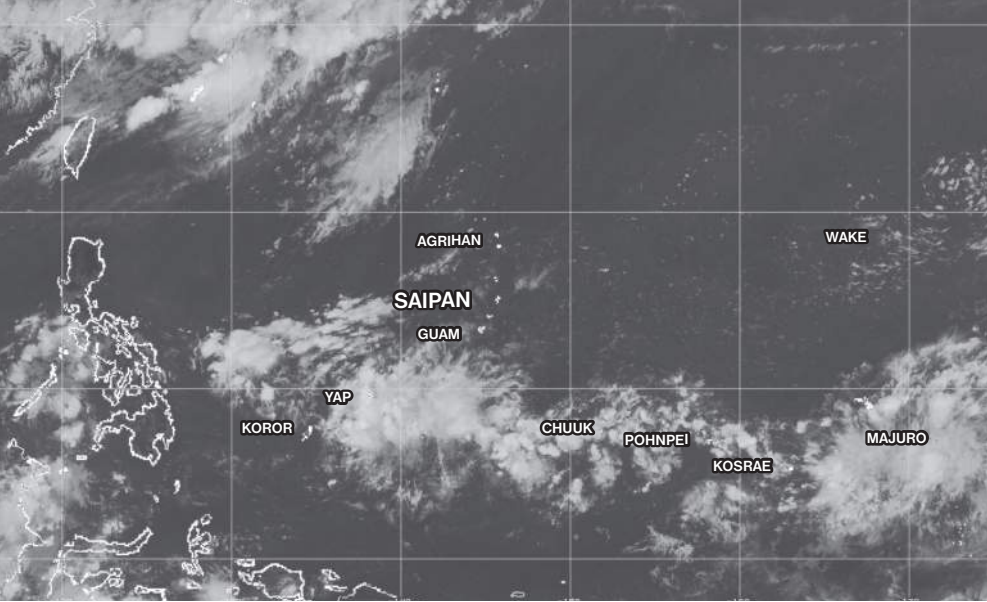
stark reminders of our food supply's fragility. Closed borders mean less fresh food will be available to our people, especially consumers on Tinian and Rota, or higher prices for the food that is available. Meat processing plants across the United States have emerged as hotspots for COVID-19 infections, with estimates showing a 20% decrease in the supply of meat from domestic factories. Limited supply may drive up wholesale prices of meat, which in turn drives up the price of meat products at our local stores. It remains to be seen what effect these COVID-19-related closures have had on the CNMI; however, the pandemic gives isolated jurisdictions such as ours more impetus to increase our reliance on homegrown food. A domestic beef industry can help the CNMI diversify its food sources and ensure that meat products are readily available to our people, even in times of disaster. As a government, we must follow in the footsteps of island nations like Singapore and support our domestic food producers who feed our communities when our trading partners cannot.

Closing

The Tinian leadership and the Tinian Cattlemen's Association are excited to share their vision with the CNMI. I'd like to reiterate that the Strategic Plan for the Tinian Beef Industry is a working draft and will require more input from our stakeholders. Our June 18 meeting was just the beginning of what I hope to be a long conversation on how we can revitalize domestic industry, establish food security and provide economic opportunity for our region. As we continue to dialogue with the community, I invite you to explore the strategic plan and give us feedback on how we can improve this effort. To access the strategic plan, please contact my office at (670) 664-8868 or senator.hofschneider@gmail.com.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
90°	78°	89°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	89°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:25 AM, THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2020

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Partly cloudy skies with spotty showers and gentle to moderate trade winds prevail across the Marianas this morning. Buoys show seas between 3 and 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	85° / 78°	
Yap	Mostly Cloudy	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Showers	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Rain	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:55 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:32 AM	3:43 PM	-
Saturday	3:19 AM	4:38 PM	-
Sunday	4:11 AM	5:35 PM	-
Monday	5:06 AM	6:31 PM	-
Tuesday	6:05 AM	7:26 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	61° / 54°	
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 84°	
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Partly Cloudy	79° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	79° / 63°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	91° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	83° / 73°	
Osaka	Thunderstorm	84° / 73°	
Paris	Cloudy	81° / 61°	
Busan	Showers	75° / 72°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	86° / 70°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	94° / 74°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	81° / 53°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 70°	
Tokyo	Thunderstorm	79° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorm	92° / 76°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:56 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.91	
11:29 AM	LOW TIDE	0.20	
6:48 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.79	
11:32 PM	LOW TIDE	1.39	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri

ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable

SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

SUBSCRIPTION

Published Monday to Friday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$180. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

CUSTOMER SERVICE

For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING

For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

BECQ’s cleanup nets 1,020 lbs of trash

A whopping 1,020 lbs of trash was collected in just two hours of beach cleanup last Saturday at the Coral Ocean Point in the south coast of Saipan. Majority of the trash collected were beer cans.

The cleanup, organized every first Saturday of the month by the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, brings together volunteers to clean up a pre-identified area for two hours. This month’s cleanup, a resumption since stopping in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was led by the Division of Coastal Resources Management.

In an interview at the cleanup, BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera appealed to picnic-goers to take home anything that they bring to the beaches, or use the trash bins on site. “As you can see today, there’s a lot of beer by the beach sand area, in between the rocks [and] the smaller trees. I just hope that people going on a picnic, if they come here and bring this stuff, that they take it back home, rather than just leaving it behind.”

“There’s some [trash bins] on site. ... There’s quite a few dumpsters so they can take their stuff and dump it there. Let’s keep our beaches clean so everybody’s happy when they come and use the beach again,” he added.

For the cleanups, Cabrera said that BECQ personnel scout the island and see which beach requires a big cleanup operation, and from there, organize the cleanup. Cabrera hopes that the next cleanup will be at the east and west beaches of Saipan.

“Everybody here, this is our island, this is yours and mine. Let’s keep it clean. ... We hope that [people] would want to join us next time around. Whoever wants to go volunteer, please come and volunteer,” he said.

In a statement, DCRM appealed to the community to help keep the coasts and oceans clean and trash-free by picking up after themselves, disposing of trash properly, reporting litter and illegal dumping, and becoming a volunteer. To sign up as a volunteer for the cleanup brigade, or for more information, contact the BECQ office at 664-8500/1. *(Iva Maurin)*



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315
www.dcrm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of July 17, 2020

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Saipan Stevedore, Inc.	06/16/2020 TPI-2020-X-09	Stevedore Warehouse, Office Building Repair & Rehab Work	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 06/23/2020
2. Office of Grants Management	06/16/2020 TSM-2020-X-010	Solar Lights Installation	Tinian Kammer Beach Pathway & Recreational Port Area	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 06/29/2020
3. Macro Energy, Inc.	06/24/2020 SLR-2020-X-123-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
4. Selfish Saipan, Inc.	06/24/2020 SLR-2019-X-038-R2	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 06/30/2020
5. Time Creation Corporation dba TCC Diving Tour	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-070-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
6. United Front Co., LTD. dba Super Fish Diving	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-085-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/06/2020
7. Thank You Saipan Corporation dba Thank You Saipan Diving	06/26/2020 SLR-2018-X-072-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation, Helmet Diving, Snorkeling	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
8. National Park Service	06/29/2020 SPF-2020-X-050	Geotechnical Soil Survey	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 07/07/2020
9. Song & Jang Corporation dba B & B Grotto	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-074-R3	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, East Bay, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
10. Ben & Ki Watersports, LLC	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-140-R3	Banana Boat & Wakeboard	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
11. Ben & Ki Watersports, LLC	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-139-R3	Personal Watercraft & Snorkeling	Fiesta Resort Beach Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
12. Sydney J. Takahashy dba Fishguyz Scuba & Charter	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-141-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
13. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-083-R3	Snorkeling, Kayak, & Banana Boat	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
14. Sakura CNMI Corporation dba Sakura Marine Sports	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-084-R3	Personal Watercraft & Wakeboard	Fiesta Resort Beach Area, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
15. Aqua Del Rey Saipan Inc.	06/29/2020 SLR-2020-X-027-R2	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
16. Kwon & Byun Corporation dba Saipan Atty Dive	06/29/2020 SLR-2018-X-122-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation	All Designated Dives Sites on Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
17. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-069-R3	Banana Boat, Snorkeling, & Wakeboard	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
18. J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-102-R3	Personal Watercraft with Accessory Use (Jetovator)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
19. Island Marine Sports, Inc.	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-110-R3	Parasailing	Designated Parasailing Zone – Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
20. Asia Pacific, Inc. dba Asia Marine Sports	06/30/2020 SLR-2018-X-111-R3	Banana Boat & Snorkeling Tour Operation	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
21. Bridge Investment Group, LLC.	07/01/2020 TPI-2020-X-011	Installation of 8" Water Line	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
22. Marine Tech (Saipan), Inc. dba S2 Club	07/01/2020 STLR-2018-X-130-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
23. Deep Blue, Inc. dba Deep Blue Diving	07/01/2020 STLR-2018-X-098-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/14/2020
24. Tropical Leisure Sports, Inc. dba TLSI	07/01/2020 SLR-2018-X-068-R3	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Personal Watercraft (PWC)	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
25. CNS Inc.	07/01/2020 SLR-2018-X-135-R3	Personal Watercraft, Kayak, Snorkeling, & Stand Up Paddle	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 07/15/2020
26. John Paul Palacios Sablan, 21st House of Representatives	07/01/2020 SSm-2020-X-052	Six Beach Pala Palas	Chalan Kanoa, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
27. Mark Arnold L. Santos dba Mac's Marine	07/06/2020 SLR-2018-X-112-R3	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Seawalker Operation	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
28. Auto Marine, Inc.	07/06/2020 SLR-2018-X-113-R3	Banana Boat, Parasailing, & Seawalker Operation	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
29. Green Flash, L.L.C.	07/07/2020 SLR-2020-X-047	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	Grotto, Lau Lau Bay, Obyan Beach, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
30. JB Corporation dba Saipan Fresh Adventure	07/08/2020 SLR-2020-X-054	Snorkeling Tour Operation	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
31. Anh Tuan Nguyen & Veronica Castro Nguyen	07/10/2020 SW-2020-X-055	Single Story 3-Bedroom Residential Concrete House	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review*
32. Office of the Mayor of Saipan	07/13/2020 SSCH-2020-X-056	Demolition & Construction of New Structures	Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan	Shoreline, Coastal Hazard	Under Review*
33. Eleanor B. Alinas dba Max's Saipan Restaurant	07/13/2020 SSCH-2020-X-057	Two Story Restaurant	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
34. Seahorse, Inc. Saipan dba Seahorse Tour	07/13/2020 SLR-2018-X-090-R3	Personal Watercraft, Parasailing, & Banana Boat	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
35. Tao Tao Marianas Inc. dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	07/13/2020 SLR-2018-X-093-R3	Parasailing	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
36. Tao Tao Marianas Inc. dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	07/13/2020 SLR-2018-X-091-R3	Banana Boat	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
37. Tao Tao Marianas Inc. dba Tao Tao Marine Sports	07/13/2020 SLR-2018-X-092-R3	Personal Watercraft	Saipan Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
38. Saipan Aqua World, Inc. dba Aqua Dive Tour	07/13/2020 SLR-2018-X-094-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction & Seawalker Operation	Saipan Lagoon & Mañagaha Island, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
39. Kura-Ling Dive Co. dba Kura-Ling Dive	07/13/2020 STRLR-2018-X-095-R3	SCUBA Diving Tour Operation/ Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites on Saipan, Tinian & Rota	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review
40. Soledad Francesca B. Camacho & Dr. Ahmad Al-Alou	07/15/2020 SS-2020-X-058	Two Storey Commercial Building with Penthouse	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*
41. Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management	07/16/2020 SSm-2020-X-059	Construction of Signage	Tank Beach, Grotto Drive, Ladder Beach Drive, Obyan Beach Drive, Sugar Dock, Abangbang Place, Laulau Bay Drive, Saipan	Shoreline	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Business

Ayuyu Jr. now VP of McDonald's of Guam & Saipan

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan owner/operators Jose and Marcia Ayuyu are pleased to announce the promotion of Joe Ayuyu Jr. to vice president for the McDonald's of Guam and Saipan restaurants effective July 1, 2020.

"We're happy to announce Joe Jr.'s promotion. This transition marks a pivotal time in our organization and sets a solid foundation for the continuation of our business into the future. For me, succession planning is key to the sustainable growth of our company. We are confident, excited and

look forward to Joe Jr.'s leadership and vision for McDonald's," said Jose Ayuyu.

Joe Jr. is no stranger to the restaurant business. His parents, Jose and Marcia, opened their first McDonald's restaurant on Saipan in March 1993, when he was just 2 years old. For 27 years, he grew up learning different facets of the business. In 2014, Joe Jr. graduated from Miami University in Ohio and returned to Saipan to begin his career with McDonald's. He learned the operations from the bottom up and was eventually

promoted as general manager for McDonald's Middle Road, running the day-to-day operations and leading a team of 50 employees. After his general manager role, Joe served as area supervisor for the two McDonald's restaurants on Saipan.

In 2016, Joe Jr. attended and graduated from McDonald's Hamburger University in Chicago, Illinois. In August 2019, he was promoted to supervisor for the newly-built McDon-



Ayuyu Jr.

ald's of Yigo restaurant on the island of Guam. The restaurant offers customers an "experience of the future," complete with a modern look, the latest technology and new conveniences for customers.

In his years with McDonald's, Joe Jr. has played an instrumental role in implementing new ideas to bring the restaurants to the forefront of modernization. Today, he joins his parents and his sisters Mable and Ashley in running

their family company. "The restaurant business is always changing and we've positioned ourselves for a smooth transition to the next generation of leaders," says Jose Ayuyu.

Aside from work, Joe Jr. dedicates his time to community work and organizations throughout the Marianas. He currently serves as a board member for the Saipan Zoning Board, former chairman for the CNMI Liberation Day Committee, and is a 2015 graduate of the Pacific Century Fellows-Marianas Chapter. He has been featured in *Guam Business*

Magazine's "40 under 40" recognizing up-and-coming young professionals throughout Guam and the Marianas.

McDonald's of Guam & Saipan, locally owned and operated by Franchisee's Joe & Marcia Ayuyu, is the leading food service restaurant chain in the Mariana Islands. First opened in 1993, the organization includes eight McDonald's restaurants, two on Saipan and six on Guam. In 2016, the Ayuyus acquired all McDonald's restaurants in Guam and has remained one of the largest employers on the island. (PR)

GUAM—Matson, Inc. (NYSE: MATX), a leading U.S. carrier in the Pacific, celebrated the inaugural arrival of its second Aloha Class containership, *Daniel K. Inouye*, to Guam with a water salute and welcome event at sea. The vessel made its inaugural arrival into the Port Authority of Guam last July 14, less than a year after the arrival of the *Kaimana Hila*, the sister ship of the *Daniel K. Inouye*. The company announced that *Daniel K. Inouye* would begin servicing this island as part of Matson's weekly scheduled service.

Daniel K. Inouye was christened in June of 2018 and went into service in November that same year. It was the first of two state-of-the-art Aloha Class containerships and largest built in the U.S. for Matson by Philly Shipyard at a total investment of approximately \$418 million for the pair. The *Daniel K. Inouye* will be delivering cargo to Guam from the West Coast of the U.S. mainland and Hawaii.

"We are very pleased to add the *Daniel K. Inouye* into our service rotation for Guam," said Vic Angoco, senior vice president, Pacific. "We continue to find ways to open up capacity for Guam from the U.S. mainland and Hawaii, which adds greater reliability, dependability and on-time service for the island's residents and businesses."

Bernie Valencia, vice president and general manager for Guam and Micronesia said, "Guam has been an important hub for Matson for close to 25 years. We will be celebrating

Matson welcomes Daniel K. Inouye during inaugural visit to Guam



Matson, Inc.'s Aloha Class containership Daniel K. Inouye is welcomed in Guam with a water salute. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

our 25th anniversary in Guam and Micronesia in early 2021, and what better way to show our commitment than to expand and reinforce our services and support for the island as it begins its economic recovery efforts."

The addition of the new vessels has heralded a new era in shipping in the Pacific. Matson continues to further invest in its Hawaii operation, which helps to improve the overall reliability and efficiency for customers in Guam. Matson installed three new 65 long-ton capacity gantry cranes at its Honolulu hub terminal at Sand Island. Much of the cargo destined for Guam and Micronesia from two of Matson's U.S. mainland ports is relayed in Honolulu, and the addition of the ship-to-shore container cranes, deemed the largest in the industry, help to relay cargo more efficiently to

the islands.

As part of its four-year fleet expansion plan, Matson added the *Lurline*, the first of two new Kanaloa Class combination container/roll-on, roll-off ("conro") vessels, into service in Hawaii in January and christened its fourth new ship, *Matsonia*, days ago on July 6 in San Diego, California.

Angoco added, "We have shown through this challenging time that our customers in the region can count on Matson to deliver on-time and as scheduled. We want our customers in Guam and Micronesia to know that we continue to find ways to serve them when they need us most. Guam and Micronesia are important to Matson, and we are commit-

ted to positively contributing to improving the quality of life in the islands and supporting their future growth."

Daniel K. Inouye was named in honor of the late senator from Hawaii. Born in Honolulu in 1924, Inouye served with the U.S. Army's famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II. He returned to Hawaii a decorated war hero and practiced law before entering politics. When Hawaii was admitted to the union in 1959, the fledgling state elected Inouye as one of its first representatives to the U.S. Congress. In 1962 he was elected to the U.S. Senate and was successfully reelected nine times in an unparalleled public service career spanning 50 years. Inouye was an

ardent supporter of the people of Hawaii and the Pacific. He was a true champion of the U.S. Merchant Marine and is recognized throughout the maritime industry as one of its most powerful advocates.

Weighing in at over 51,400 metric tons, the 850-foot long and 3,600 TEU capacity (Twenty-foot Equivalent Units, the standard unit of measurement for container capacity), sister ships *Daniel K. Inouye* and *Kaimana Hila* and are the largest containerships ever constructed in the U.S. They are also Matson's fastest vessels, with a top speed of nearly 24 knots, helping ensure on-time deliveries in Guam and Hawaii from Matson's three West Coast terminals in Seattle, Oakland, and Long Beach.

Both Aloha Class vessels incorporate the latest environmentally friendly technology,

including dual-fuel engines that can be adapted to use liquefied natural gas (LNG), double hull fuel tanks, fresh water ballast systems, and a more fuel-efficient hull design.

All Matson vessels meet the new and emerging International Maritime Organization (IMO) global fuel emission guidelines that went into effect on January 1, 2020. More information on Matson's new vessels and fleet modernization program is available at www.Matson.com.

Founded in 1882, Matson (NYSE: MATX) is a leading provider of ocean transportation and logistics services. Matson provides a vital lifeline to the domestic non-contiguous economies of Hawaii, Alaska, and Guam, and to other island economies in Micronesia. Matson also operates a premium, expedited service from China to Southern California and provides services to Okinawa, Japan, and various islands in the South Pacific. The Company's fleet of owned and chartered vessels includes container-ships, combination container and roll-on/roll-off ships and custom-designed barges. Matson Logistics, established in 1987, extends the geographic reach of Matson's transportation network throughout the continental U.S. Its integrated, asset-light logistics services include rail intermodal, highway brokerage, warehousing, freight consolidation, Asia supply chain services, and forwarding to Alaska. Additional information about the Company is available at www.matson.com. (PR)

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 26,870.10 +227.51 .85%	S&P 3,226.56 +29.04 .91%	NASDAQ 10,550.49 +61.92 .59%
--	--	--

EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7520	Russian Ruble	69.9678
Australian Dollar	1.4305	Singapore Dollar	1.3928
British Pound	0.7962	South Korean Won	1183.19
Canadian Dollar	1.3506	Swiss Franc	0.9455
Chinese Yuan	6.9045	Taiwan Dollar	29.0044
Euro	0.8769	Thailand Baht	31.7220

Nation

Confirmed US virus cases rise amid new global restrictions

MIAMI (AP)—California, Arizona, Texas and Florida together reported about 36,000 new coronavirus cases Wednesday as restrictions aimed at combating the spread of the pandemic took hold in the United States and around the world in an unsettling sign reminiscent of the dark days of April.

The soaring counts of confirmed infections and a mounting death toll led the mayor of

Los Angeles to declare that the nation's second-largest city is on the verge of resorting to a shutdown of all but essential businesses. More school districts made plans to start the fall semester without on-site instruction, and the 2021 Rose Parade in California was canceled.

Other events went ahead undeterred. Thousands of auto-racing fans gathered at Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennes-

see for a NASCAR event. Officials allowed 30,000 at the track, and the event marked the largest sporting event since the pandemic began four months ago. Disney World moved forward with the rolling opening of its Florida theme parks.

California, Arizona, Florida and Texas reported a total of more than 450 new deaths. Alabama reported a pandemic-high one-day total of 40 deaths,

and officials said the state will begin requiring face masks.

In Texas, which again set a record for confirmed new cases, with nearly 10,800, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has increasingly emphasized face coverings as the way to avoid another lockdown.



Montana Gov. Steve Bullock required masks at indoor public spaces and at larger outdoor gatherings in counties

where four or more people are known to have COVID-19. The Democrat's order came as the state reported a record number of new confirmed cases.

In Ohio, Gov. Mike DeWine, who has faced criticism from fellow Republicans over business closures, gave a televised address with an emotional appeal to residents to make sacrifices to protect their neighbors. But he stopped short of

mandating masks.

Among the sternest measures were in New York, where Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo added to a list totaling 22 states whose visitors will be required to quarantine for two weeks if they visit the tri-state region. Out-of-state travelers arriving in New York airports from those states face a \$2,000 fine and a mandatory quarantine order if they fail to fill out a tracing form.


**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**


**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP20-GOV-085**

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 10, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

**"PROFESSIONAL ADVISORY SERVICES
FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF MILITARY AFFAIRS"**

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

PRE-PROPOSAL QUESTIONS — ANY QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SUBMITTED TO **MS. GLENNA SP REYES** IN WRITING VIA EMAIL TO glenna.sp.reyes@gmail.com NO LATER THAN **04:00 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JULY 27, 2020**. ALL QUESTIONS AND/OR CLARIFICATIONS SHALL BE SHARED WITH ALL PROPOSERS.


THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RALPH DLG. TORRES
GOVERNOR, CNMI

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

/S/ GLENNA SP. REYES
SA, MILITARY AFFAIRS


**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER RENOVATIONS
Project No. CPA-SA-004-17**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Air Traffic Control Tower Renovations, No. CPA-SA-004-17, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than **Wednesday, July 29, 2020, 5:00 p.m.**, local time.


Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2020 (CHST)** to the office of the Executive Director. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: July 14, 2020





NOTICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS

CUC would like to inform its customers that
**Bank of Hawaii will no longer be accepting
CUC payments
effective August 1, 2020.**

CUC encourages you to stay home,
stay safe and **pay online** at
www.cucgov.org or **pay by phone** by
calling **1-855-729-2282 (PAY2CUC)**.

**You can also pay your CUC bill at
other convenient locations:**

- Bank of Guam branches
- Bank of Saipan branches
- CUC Customer Center - Joeten Dandan Bldg., Saipan
- CUC Customer Center - Sinapalo II, Rota
- CUC Customer Center - San Jose, Tinian


COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY


San Jose Village P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
July 17, 2020



PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' WILL RECONVENE ITS MEETING OF MARCH 7, 2020 ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 AT 6:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Election of Vice Chairperson
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. January 24, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 1. Accomplishments Report
 2. Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - a. Contract Renewal
 - b. FY 2021 Budget
 3. Loan Matters
 - a. Loan Proposal
 4. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters / Economic Development Activities
 - B. Comptroller's Report
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Rent-To-Own Home Program
 - B. Article XII (Private Land Only)
 - C. Update to Loan Department Page on the CDA Website
 - D. Doing Business in the CNMI
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations
 - B. Legal Service - Attorney General's Office
 - C. CPA Proposed Financing
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors


COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY


San Jose Village P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
July 17, 2020



PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE DCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS WILL HOLD ITS REGULAR MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 AT 5:30 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Election of Vice-Chairman
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. March 7, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Additional Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations
 - B. Loan Revision Request
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 1(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ FRANK LEE SN. BORJA
Chairman, DCD Board of Directors


COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY


San Jose Village P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. Nos: (670) 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Fax No.: (670) 235-7147
Website: www.developcnmi.com

PUBLIC NOTICE
July 17, 2020

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) THRU ITS CHAIRMAN, HEREBY INFORMS THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REGULAR MEETING WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 2020 AT 7:00 P.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA CONFERENCE ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, CDA BUILDING, SAN JOSE VILLAGE, SAIPAN. THE AGENDA FOR THIS MEETING IS AS FOLLOWS:

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - A. Roll Call
 - B. Adoption of Agenda
 - C. Adoption of Minutes
 1. March 7, 2020
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. REPORTS
 - A. Executive Director's Report
 1. Administrative/Personnel Matters
 - a. Adoption of CDA Personnel Rules & Regulations
 - b. Personnel & Budget Recommendations
 - c. Contract Renewal
 2. Loan Matters
 - a. Bridge Financing
 - b. Direct Loan Program Allocation
 3. Qualifying Certificate (QC) Program Matters/Economic Development Activities
- B. Comptroller's Report

- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- A. Pension Obligation Bonds/Bank Financing
- B. CPA Bond/Bank Financing—CDA Board Resolution 2020-002
- C. Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) LOC
- D. Rent-To-Own Home Program
- E. Article XII (Private Land Only)
- F. Update to Loan Department Page on the CDA Website
- G. Doing Business in the CNMI
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Federal Technical Assistance Grant
- B. Amendments to the DCD Rules & Regulations
- C. Attendance at CDA & DCD Board Meetings
- VI. OTHER MATTERS
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/ IGNACIO L. PEREZ
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Trump replaces campaign manager amid sinking poll numbers

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump shook up his campaign staff amid sinking poll numbers less than four months before the election, replacing campaign manager Brad Parscale with veteran GOP operative Bill Stepien.

“I am pleased to announce that Bill Stepien has been promoted to the role of Trump Campaign Manager,” Trump said Wednesday on Facebook. “Brad Parscale, who has been with me for a very long time and has led our tremendous digital and data strategies, will remain in that role, while being a Senior Advisor to the campaign.”

Trump and Parscale’s relationship had been increasingly strained, with the president annoyed by the publicity Parscale had garnered in the role. But the final straw appeared to be a Tulsa, Oklahoma, rally last month that drew an unexpectedly low crowd of about 6,200 people after Parscale had bragged that more than a million people had requested tickets. The president was furious.

The shakeup injected familiar turmoil to Trump’s 2020 campaign, which had so far largely avoided the regular staff churn that dominated the president’s 2016 campaign and his White House. It comes as Trump has been struggling in his reelection campaign against presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden, with the nation facing health and economic crises during a pandemic that has killed more than 135,000



AP
In this Thursday, March 28, 2019, file photo, Brad Parscale, manager of President Donald Trump’s reelection campaign, throws “Make America Great Again,” hats to the audience before a rally in Grand Rapids, Mich.

Americans.

The staff change was not expected to alter the day-to-day running of the campaign. News of the shuffle was delivered to Parscale on Wednesday afternoon by White House adviser and Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner.

Parscale, a political novice, ran Trump’s digital advertising in 2016 and was credited with helping bring about his surprise victory that year. Stepien has been in politics for years, working for former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and serving as Trump’s national field director in 2016.

Parscale had been increas-

ingly sidelined in the weeks since the Tulsa rally and as the president’s public and private poll numbers have taken a hit amid the pandemic. Speculation had been rampant about who might be promoted to lead the operation, with names like former Trump strategist Steve Bannon floated.

Parscale is a close ally of Kushner, who wields ultimate control over the campaign. A Florida resident, he had not been a regular presence of late in the campaign’s Arlington, Virginia, headquarters, sparking some resentments among staffers.

Rather than parting ways completely, Parscale was re-

tained in part because of the difficulty the campaign would have faced in rebuilding its digital advertising operation so close to the Nov. 3 general election. While the Republican National Committee owned most of the campaign’s data, voter modeling and outreach tools, Parscale ran most of the microtargeted online advertising that Trump aides believed were key in 2016.

Parscale’s digital advertising firm was among the campaign’s most significant

vendors, and some in Trump’s orbit have alleged that the former campaign manager was profiting off the president’s reelection. Parscale has repeatedly denied the claims.

Trump has been pressed by allies in recent months to expand his political circle and more forcefully define his run against Biden. Last month, Trump announced a promotion for Stepien and returned former communications chief Jason Miller to his cam-

paign, taking away some of Parscale’s clout and influence.

Biden also shuffled his campaign team, albeit much earlier in the cycle, amid a disastrous stretch in his primary run. For Biden, the moves marked genuine shakeups that expanded and changed how his campaign operated.

Biden elevated Anita Dunn, effectively displacing his first campaign manager, Greg Schultz, after a fourth-place Iowa finish and as he was already headed for a second embarrassing finish in New Hampshire. Dunn had joined Biden at the outset of his campaign after having served President Barack Obama as a top communications adviser.

With Dunn’s urging, Biden hired his current campaign manager, Jen O’Malley Dillon, in March after Dunn and others helped resurrect Biden in Nevada and South Carolina and put him on the path to the nomination. Schultz is now at the Democratic National Committee, helping lead the joint battleground strategy among the national party, the Biden campaign and state parties.

Floyd family sues Minneapolis officers charged in his death

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — George Floyd’s family filed a lawsuit Wednesday against the city of Minneapolis and the four police officers charged in his death, alleging the officers violated Floyd’s rights when they restrained him and that the city allowed a culture of excessive force, racism and impunity to flourish in its police force.

The lawsuit came the same day that members of a city charter commission took public comments on a proposal to dismantle the Minneapolis Police Department. Many residents strongly favored putting the proposal to a citywide vote in November.

The civil rights lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Minnesota, was announced by attorney Ben Crump and other lawyers representing Floyd’s family members. It seeks compensatory and special damages in an amount to be determined by a jury. It also asks for a receiver to be appointed to ensure that the city properly trains and supervises

officers in the future.

“This complaint shows what we have said all along, that Mr. Floyd died because the weight of the entire Minneapolis Police Department was on his neck,” Crump said in a statement. “The City of Minneapolis has a history of policies, procedures and deliberate indifference that violates the rights of arrestees, particularly Black men, and highlights the need for officer training and discipline.”

Crump said the lawsuit seeks to set a precedent “that makes it financially prohibitive for police to wrongfully kill marginalized people — especially Black people — in the future.”

Mayor Jacob Frey’s office said he couldn’t comment on pending litigation. Interim City Attorney Erik Nilsson said the city is reviewing the lawsuit and will respond to it.

Floyd, a Black man who was handcuffed, died May 25 after Derek Chauvin, a white police officer, pressed his knee against Floyd’s neck for

nearly eight minutes as Floyd said he couldn’t breathe. Chauvin is charged with second-degree murder, third-degree murder and manslaughter. Three other officers at the scene — Tou Thao, Thomas Lane and J. Kueng — are charged with aiding and abetting both second-degree murder and manslaughter.

All four officers were fired the day after Floyd’s death, which set off protests that spread around the world and turned into a national reckoning on race in America.

Floyd’s death also sparked calls to abolish the Minneapolis Police Department and replace it with a new public safety department. A majority of City Council members support the move, saying the department has a long history and culture of brutality that has resisted change. The proposal requires a change in the city charter. Most callers to the first hour of a public hearing Wednesday evening urged the charter commission to let voters decide.

Walmart latest retailer to require customers to wear masks

NEW YORK (AP)—Walmart will require customers to wear face coverings at all of its namesake and Sam’s Club stores, making it the largest retailer to introduce such a policy that has otherwise proven difficult to enforce without state and federal requirements.

The company said Wednesday that the policy will go into effect on Monday to allow time to inform customers. Currently, about 65% of its more than 5,000 stores and clubs are located in areas where there is already some form of government mandate on face coverings.

Hours after Walmart’s announcement, supermarket chain Kroger, based in Cincinnati, and department store Kohl’s, based in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin, followed suit. Kohl’s policy will go into effect on Monday, while Kroger’s mask protocol will go into effect July 22.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Walmart, Kohl’s and Kroger join a growing but still small list of retailers to require masks at all of its stores, filling the role of states and the federal government that have failed to issue such

mandates on an issue that has been highly politicized by President Donald Trump and many of his ardent supporters. Given Walmart’s clout as the largest retailer in the U.S., its decision is expected to push many others to issue similar mandates.

Last week, Starbucks announced that customers who visit its company-owned café locations in the U.S. will be required to wear face coverings. The policies at Starbucks and Best Buy went into effect Wednesday.

Only a handful of major retailers, including teen clothing chain American Eagle Outfitters and Apple, has a mask mandate for customers for all of its stores. Costco Wholesale Club was one of the first major retailers to require face coverings for customers at all of its stores. The policy went into effect in early May.

The National Retail Federation, the nation’s largest retail trade group, said in a statement that it hopes Walmart’s move will be a “tipping point in this public health debate.”

Retailers had been hesitant to issue chain-wide mandates for fear of angering some customers. They also didn’t

want to have their workers play the role of enforcers of the protocols. It was already hard enough to get some customers to comply even in the states that had the mandates. However, the recent surge of new virus cases—particularly in Florida, California, Texas and Arizona—has left them with no choice, retail experts say.

“I think Walmart’s decision will give cover to other retailers to require masks,” said Michael J. Hicks, an economist at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. “I applaud Walmart and others for stepping in.”

Bryan Eshelman, a managing director in the retail practice at consultancy AlixPartners, noted that retailers needed to step in to reduce their own health risks and that having a virus case is disruptive.

“It is a business risk that they need to manage for the safety of employees and customers,” he said.

Eshelman added that he believes making shoppers comply with the mask protocols will be easier now that wearing masks are becoming more of the norm.

Asia

China becomes first economy to grow since virus pandemic

BEIJING (AP)—China became the first major economy to grow since the start of the coronavirus pandemic, recording an unexpectedly strong 3.2% expansion in the latest quarter after anti-virus lockdowns were lifted and factories and stores reopened.

Growth reported Thursday for the three months ending in June was a dramatic improvement over the previous quarter's 6.8% contraction—China's worst performance since at least the mid-1960s. But it still was the weakest positive figure since China started reporting quarterly growth in the early 1990s.

"We expect to see continuous improvement in the upcoming quarters," Marcella Chow of JP Morgan Asset Management said in a report.

China, where the coronavirus pandemic began in December, was the first economy to shut down and the first to start the drawn-out process of recovery in March after the ruling Communist Party declared the disease under control.

"The national economy shifted from slowing down to rising in the first half of 2020," the National Bureau of

Statistics said in a statement.

Economists say China is likely to recover faster than some other major economies due to the ruling Communist Party's decision to impose the most intensive anti-disease measures in history. Those cut off most access to cities with a total of 60 million people and suspended trade and travel—steps later imitated by some Asian and European governments as the virus spread.

Manufacturing and some other industries are almost back to normal. But consumer spending is weak due to fear of possible job losses. Cinemas and some other businesses still are closed and restrictions on travel stay in place.

"The pandemic is creating winners and losers," said Bill Adams of PNC Financial Services Group in a report. "Manufacturing is leading China's recovery."

Private sector analysts say as much as 30% of the urban workforce, or as many as 130 million people, may have lost their jobs at least temporarily. They say as many as 25 million jobs might be lost for good this year.

The ruling party promised in May to spend \$280 billion on meeting goals including creating 9 million new jobs. But it has avoided joining the United States and Japan in rolling out stimulus packages of \$1 trillion or more due to concern about adding to already high Chinese debt.

China reported 4,634 coronavirus deaths and 83,611 confirmed cases. It has not reported any domestically transmitted cases since an outbreak in Beijing that infected more than 330 people before it faded early this month.

On Tuesday, the government eased some curbs on domestic tourism after China reported no new locally acquired infections in nine days. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism said tourist sites can allow 50% of their daily visitor capacity, up from 30%, and tours from one province to another can resume.

In the three months ending in June, factory output rose 4.4%, rebounding from the previous quarter's 8.4% contraction after factories that make the world's smartphones, shoes, toys and other goods reopened.

India where offices for major tech companies like Amazon and Apple are located, the government ordered a weeklong lockdown that began Tuesday evening.

The initial boost that India's economy received in June after the nationwide lockdown was relaxed is being halted by these localized lockdowns in high-risk areas, experts say. Economic indicators like labor participation rates and electricity consumption are down this month compared to June, according to the Center for Monitoring Indian Economy, an independent think-tank.

India's minister for small and medium businesses, Nitin Gadkari, said last week that experts were predicting a loss of \$133.3 billion in the next year.

Authorities are now increasingly trying to focus their lockdowns to shield the economy from further losses, and nearly a dozen states are turning to localized clampdowns in areas where many cases have been detected. Referred to as "containment zones" by

public health officials, these can be as small as a few houses on a street in New Delhi, the capital.

Jayaprakash Muliyil, an epidemiologist at Christian Medical College in southern India, warned that the country's actual death toll from the coronavirus could be much higher due to the absence of a robust mechanism to report deaths in rural areas. "We don't have the infrastructure," he said.

Dr. Ashish Jha, director of Harvard's Global Health Institute, said that with new cases accelerating, India's strategy must focus on keeping case numbers as low as possible and saving as many lives as it can.

"The standard stuff is the standard stuff: You have got to continue testing and isolation ... make sure there are few to no indoor gatherings," he said.

Jha warned that India has to ensure it continues acquiring supplies and has enough beds for people who will need to be hospitalized in the coming days. "You can't overprepare," he said.

World

Colombia: Illegal groups using violence to enforce lockdowns

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Illegal armed groups are imposing strict COVID-19 quarantines in parts of Colombia where the state has a weak presence, threatening and even killing those who don't comply, Human Rights Watch warned Wednesday.

At least nine people have been assassinated in recent months for either refusing to abide by the restrictions or actively opposing them.

One man, community leader Edison León, was killed in June after sending a letter alerting local authorities that members of a group called "La Mafia" were forcing residents to staff a health checkpoint in Putumayo.

"I am not willing to continue sending my people to death," he wrote.

Days later he was killed. "Draconian 'punishments' imposed by armed groups to prevent the spread of COVID-19 mean that people in remote and impoverished communities across Colombia risk being attacked and even killed if they leave their homes,"

said José Miguel Vivanco, Americas director for Human Rights Watch.

Vivanco said the groups — which include rebel dissidents of the former Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia and the National Liberation Army, among others — are using the pandemic to assert their control and gain legitimacy in the eyes of the public — but also acting out of fear of the virus itself.

Many of the rural areas where the groups operate do not have hospitals equipped with ventilators to treat those who become severely ill.

"There is a genuine fear of an outbreak within their ranks," Vivanco said.

COVID-19 cases have been steadily increasing in Colombia, with 165,169 confirmed as of Wednesday evening. The nation is facing the pandemic at the same time that it is grappling with a host of other issues, including massive coca production, drug trafficking, and the killing of social leaders and former guerrillas in the aftermath of Colombia's his-

toric 2016 peace accord.

Colombia's unemployment rate is at about 21% and officials estimate that 4.7 million people will become newly poor by the end of the year.

Human Rights Watch said its investigation found illegal armed groups are imposing rules to halt the spread of COVID-19 in at least 11 of Colombia's 32 states. In at least five, they are using violence to exert control. The warnings arrive to citizens through paper pamphlets or WhatsApp messages.

One pamphlet released the National Liberation Army rebels in northern Colombia earlier this year said fighters have been "forced to kill people in order to preserve lives" and warned only those working in food stores, bakeries or pharmacies are allowed out.

In one case, three civilians were killed and four injured in southwestern Colombia after being gunned down while in a public park. In another incident, two Venezuelan migrants were killed while drinking alcohol at a cellphone repair shop.

UN official: Catastrophe looming from oil tanker off Yemen

CAIRO (AP)—The U.N. environment chief said Wednesday that "time is running out" to avert an environmental, economic and humanitarian catastrophe from a deteriorating oil tanker loaded with 1.1 million barrels of crude oil that is moored off the coast of Yemen.

Inger Andersen told the U.N. Security Council that an oil spill from the FSO Safer, which hasn't been maintained for over five years, would wreck ecosystems and livelihoods for decades.

"Prevention of such a crisis from precipitating is really the only option," she said. "Despite the difficult operational context, no effort should be spared to first conduct a technical assessment and initial light repairs."

Houthi rebels, who control the area where the ship is moored, have denied U.N. inspectors access to the vessel so they could assess the damage and look for ways to secure the tanker by unloading the oil and pulling the ship to safety. But the rebels recently signaled they would approve a U.N. mission to the ship, according to the U.N.

Internal documents obtained by The Associated Press last month show that seawater has entered the engine compartment of the

tanker, causing damage to pipes and increasing the risk of sinking. Rust has covered parts of the tanker and the inert gas that prevents the tanks from gathering inflammable gases, has leaked out. Experts say maintenance is no longer possible because

the damage to the ship is irreversible, according to an AP report June 26.

The U.N. humanitarian affairs chief, Mark Lowcock, said a leak in the tanker in May "brought us closer than ever to an environmental catastrophe."

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION


†FRANCISCO FUJIHIRA
BABAUTA
also known as "Tan Ko" or "Ku"

We, the family of the late
†Francisco F. Babauta,
would like to thank
all the relatives, friends, and
colleagues for your enduring
support during the rosary and
funeral of our dearly beloved.

A special Thank You goes
out to the following for the
immeasurable hospitality
extended to us: Commonwealth
Ports Authority Ports Police staff
and Honor Guard, DPS Traffic
and Safety section, Cabrera
Funeral Services, our Techa
Asunta Tydingco, our friends and
relatives living abroad and lastly
our Army Family whose
contributions made it possible
to bring our loved one home.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase
and may God bless you!

*From Children &
Grandchildren*



Off The Wall

Trio of Ohio sisters give birth on same day at same hospital

MANSFIELD, Ohio (AP)—Three Ohio sisters have defied odds by giving birth on the same day in the same hospital with the same obstetrician overseeing their deliveries.

Daneesha Haynes, Ariel Williams and Ashley Haynes gave birth July 3 at OhioHealth Mansfield Hospital within a four-and-a-half-hour span, the Mansfield News

Journal reported.

A 1998 Associated Press story cited the odds of three sisters giving birth the same day as 1 in 50 million.

"It was a blessing," Daneesha Haynes said. "It's amazing. This kind of blew everybody away."

All three sisters had their deliveries induced. Daneesha was not due until July 23. Dr.

Edroy McMillan delivered all three babies. He declined to be interviewed.

Williams was the first to give birth that day, naming her 8 pound, 2 ounce daughter Sincere. Ashley Haynes followed with her 6 pound, 10 ounce son Adrien. Daneesha Haynes completed the trifecta with daughter Emrie, who weighed in at 4 pounds, 14 ounces.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man wins \$2M lottery after clerk gives him wrong ticket

EASTPOINTE, Mich. (AP)—A man in suburban Detroit was given the wrong lottery ticket. But there was no mistake about the result: a \$2 million winner. The Michigan Lottery said the man stopped at a gas station in Eastpointe, Michigan, to put air in a tire. He needed change for the air machine and also asked for a \$10 Lucky 7's scratch-off ticket. "The clerk handed me the \$20 ticket by mistake. He offered to exchange it for me but something told me to keep it. I am sure glad I did!" the man said in a statement released Tuesday by the Lottery. The name of the 57-year-old man wasn't released. He decided to take a lump sum of about \$1.3 million instead of \$2 million spread over many years, the Lottery said.

Georgia detectives discover body is sex doll

ALLENHURST, Ga. (AP)—It seemed like a major crime for Allenhurst, a town of less than 700 people in southeast Georgia. A female body was spotted by the railroad tracks. Liberty County deputies gathered at the scene and waited for the coroner. It took a while before they realized the joke was on them: The corpse was actually a sex doll. Detective Mike Albritton said officers found the female humanoid Tuesday afternoon, WSAV-TV reported. Under department policy, deputies can't touch a dead body until the coroner arrives. Once the coroner came to the scene, detectives began checking the body for injuries and immediately realized it was a sex doll. Detectives said it was anatomically correct, with realistic features and was fully dressed.

Police: Delaware shop owner threw pizza at attempted robber

(AP)—The owner of a pizza shop used his available resources to fend off a robbery attempt by a man with a machete outside his store in Delaware, police said. He threw a pizza at him. It happened Friday as the owner of Star-gate Pizza in Greenwood was closing down his shop for the night, Delaware State Police said in a news release. The owner told troopers that a man with a machete approached him demanding money. He said he told him he didn't have any, and threw a pizza at him, causing the machete-wielding man to flee in a car. Troopers say the shop owner was not injured. They're asking anyone with information to contact state police. The news release doesn't say how the pizza was disposed of.

Pandemic leads 7-Eleven to forgo free Slurpees on 7-11

DALLAS (AP)—The coronavirus pandemic has taken away another summertime tradition in the U.S.: There will be no free Slurpees at 7-Elevens on Saturday—July 11—to hail a date that doubles as an abbreviation of the convenience store chain's name. 7-Eleven has been giving away its slushy beverage to all customers for nearly 20 years on July 11, but it scrapped the promotion this summer to reduce the risk of people flocking to its stores and risking contracting the coronavirus. "Gathering nine million of our closest friends in stores on one day just didn't feel right," said Marissa Jarratt, 7-Eleven's chief marketing officer. The Dallas-based chain instead decided to donate 1 million meals to Feeding America, a hunger relief group. The roughly 33 million people who had 7-Eleven's membership app installed on their smartphones as of July 1 are also eligible for a free medium Slurpee at any time

this month.

Russian prankster acts as UN chief, reaches Polish president

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—A Russian prankster posing as the U.N. secretary-general managed to reach Poland's president on the telephone and rendered him speechless with questions about Ukraine, Russia and his reelection on Sunday. The prankster, Vladimir Kuznetsov, known as Vovan, posted a recording of the 11-minute call on YouTube. President Andrzej Duda's office confirmed Wednesday that it was authentic. At various points in the conversation, conducted in English, Duda sounds surprised at the line of questioning but still refers to the impostor as "Your Excellency." Duda tweeted Wednesday that he realized "something was not right" during the conversation, which took place Monday afternoon while the president awaited official word of his election victory.

Deceased cat gets voter registration application in mail

ATLANTA (AP)—In a presidential election year, there's always a push to get people registered to vote. For one Atlanta family, that push got a little interesting. Ron Tims said he checked his mail Wednesday and found a voter registration application addressed to Cody Tims—his cat, who died 12 years ago. "A great cat, indoor and outdoor, loved his family, loved his neighborhood. He was 18 and a half when he passed away," Carol Tims told WAGA-TV. The Tims were surprised, and a bit amused when they saw what Cody received in the mail. "There's a huge push but if they're trying to register cats, I'm not sure who else they're trying to register. I'm not sure if they're trying to register dogs, mice, snakes," Carol Tims said.

Science & Technology

Amazon unveils shopping cart that knows what you're buying

NEW YORK (AP)—Amazon has a new cure for long supermarket lines: a smart shopping cart.

The cart, which Amazon unveiled on Tuesday, uses cameras, sensors and a scale to automatically detect what shoppers drop in. It keeps a tally and then charges their Amazon account when they leave the store. No cashier is needed.

It's the latest attempt by Amazon to shake up the supermarket industry and offer a solution to long checkout lines. The online shopping giant opened a cashier-less supermarket in Seattle that uses

cameras and sensors in the ceiling to track what shoppers grab and charge them as they leave. Amazon.com Inc. also has roughly 25 cashier-less convenience stores with similar technology.

The cart, called Amazon Dash Cart, will first show up at a new Los Angeles supermarket Amazon is opening later this year. The store will have cashiers, but Amazon said it wanted to give shoppers a way to bypass any lines. In the future, it could be used at Amazon's Whole Foods grocery chain or other stores, if Amazon sells the

technology, but there are no plans for either right now.

Several startups are already making similar smart shopping carts that are being tested in stores, but many require scanning groceries before dropping them in.

There's no scanning on the Amazon cart. A screen near the handle lists what's being charged, and the cart can detect when something is taken out and have it removed from the bill. And there's also a way to let the cart know if you need to throw a jacket or purse in the cart so you don't have to carry it around.

TECH Q&A: Reducing smartphone photo quality to save space

Q: The photos taken with smartphones take up a lot of memory space. I'd like to reduce the size of my photos from several megabytes to a little less than one megabyte, a size I've found adequate for viewing on a computer, attaching to e-mails or printing 4-by-6-inch photos. But the camera settings on phones don't begin to make images that small. Is there a way to reduce photo size without having to edit each photo?

A: While many readers might wonder why you'd want to diminish photo quality, the truth is that photos taken by newer smartphones can be quite large, typically ranging from 3 to 9 megabytes.

That's great if you're a photo enthusiast, want to make large prints or like to crop pictures to enlarge small details. It's not so good if you plan to e-mail or upload photos on a limited data plan, or if you want to conserve storage space on a phone or computer.

Phone manufacturers sell phones partly by touting high-quality cameras, so they haven't been anxious to help customers lower the quality of photos, which would make photo files smaller. One exception is the iPhone's Mail app, which lets you choose whether to downsize photos that you've attached to an e-mail.

But there are plenty of photo-downsizing apps for Android phones or iPhones that will reduce multi-megabyte images to a megabyte or less. Some of the apps can handle one photo at a time, while others can process

By STEVE ALEXANDER

Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



photos in batches (which helps if you want to downsize all your saved photos). The limitation of these apps is that they won't change the behavior of your phone's camera; you'll still have to take a large-sized photo and downsize it afterward.

Note that all these photo-downsizing apps work by "compressing" a picture, which means permanently discarding a lot of the data the picture contains. Once you've lowered the quality of a picture, you can never get it back.

For Android phones, you can find downsizing apps by going to the Google Play store and searching for "compress photo." Among the available apps are "Photo Compress & Resize," "Photo & Picture Resizer," and "Video & Image Compressor."

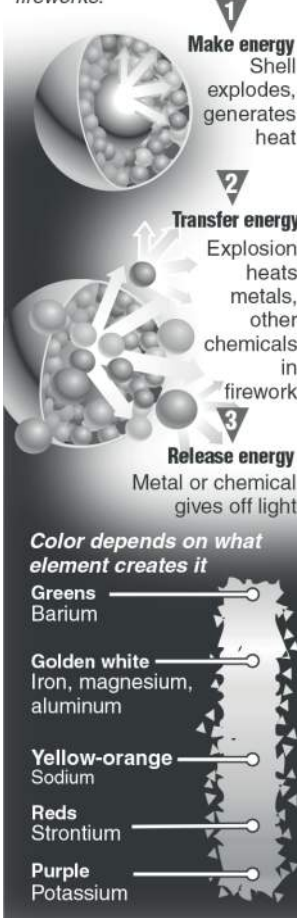
For iPhones, go to the App Store and search for "compress photo." Apps include "ImageResize," "Batch Resize" and "Image Resizer."

If any readers are torn between whether to keep high-quality or low-quality photos, you can have it both ways by keeping two copies of a photo: Store a high-quality original photo on a computer, flash drive or phone memory card. Then reduce the size of

the photo on your phone, so that you can use it for e-mailing or uploading to social media websites.

Putting the flash in fireworks

Quick, violent chemical reactions put the bright colors in fireworks.



Source: Argonne National Laboratory
Division of Educational Programs
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Life & Style

Banksy's last COVID-19 tags scrubbed from London Tube train

Ex-employee says Amber Heard 'twisted' sexual assault story

LONDON (AP)—Amber Heard's former personal assistant claimed Wednesday that she told the model-actress about a violent sexual assault she had endured, only for Heard to "twist" the story for her own use.



Heard

"I am a sexual violence survivor and that's very, very serious to take that stance if you are not one," she added.

Heard is due to give evidence in the case later this week.

Heard, 34, has made 14 allegations of violence by 57-year-old Depp between 2013 and 2016, in settings including his private island in the Bahamas, a rented house in Australia and a private jet. He denies them all.

Depp is suing News Group Newspapers, publisher of The Sun, and the paper's executive editor, Dan Wootton, over an April 2018 article that called him a "wife-beater." He strongly denies abusing Heard.

James, who worked for Heard between 2012 and 2015, gave evidence in support of Depp, and said she had told Heard that she was raped at machete-point in Brazil about 25 years ago.

She said she was shocked to learn that in a witness statement, Heard misrepresented and exploited the incident.

"She referred directly to a violent rape that occurred to me 26 years ago and she twisted it into her own story and she used it for her own use," James said by video link from Los Angeles.

Also on Wednesday Depp's former estate manager accused Heard of asking him to lie under oath after she was charged with bringing her two dogs to Australia illegally.

Kevin Murphy claimed Heard pressured him to commit perjury about the traveling terriers or risk losing his job.

"She wanted me to say essentially that it was my fault in one way or another that the paperwork wasn't completed, so that I could take the blame for her," Murphy said.



LONDON (AP)—Even if you are Banksy, tagging is forbidden on London's Underground.

Transport for London, the transportation agency for the greater London area, scrubbed

the acclaimed street artist's latest work on the subject of COVID-19 from one of its trains, erasing a visual warning on the dangers of skipping face coverings.

Banksy uploaded a 59-second video to his Instagram and YouTube pages on Tuesday that showed him spray painting on a Circle Line train.

Clad in a white boiler suit, mask, goggles, and an orange jacket with the words "stay

safe" on the back, he climbed on the train under the guise of being a maintenance worker.

AP
This undated photo issued on Tuesday July 14, 2020 by JBPR, shows Banksy's latest work sprayed on the inside of a London Underground tube carriage.

He then stenciled his trademark rats in discreet corners of a train car. One memorable image shows a sickly rat with a runny nose that sneezes and spreads a spray of droplets across a window.

Transport for London officials say the works were removed because of a strict anti-graffiti policy. But they are hoping Banksy might be persuaded to tag again.

"We'd like to offer Banksy the chance to do a new version of his message for our customers in a suitable location," the agency said in a statement.

Nick Cannon apologizes for 'hurtful' anti-Semitic comments

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Nick Cannon apologized late Wednesday for "hurtful and divisive" anti-Semitic comments that led ViacomCBS to cut ties with the TV host and producer.

"I extend my deepest and most sincere apologies to my Jewish sisters and brothers for the hurtful and divisive words that came out of my mouth," Cannon said in a series of tweets addressing his remarks on a podcast that was released last month.

He issued the apology hours after demanding an apology from ViacomCBS, which late Tuesday condemned him and

said it was cutting ties with the host, with whom it had a more than 20-year working relationship.



Cannon

Cannon said his apology came after discussions with Jewish leaders and he vowed to become more informed. "I am committed to deeper connections, more profound learning and strengthening the bond between our two cultures today and every day going forward," he said on Twitter.

ViacomCBS cut ties with Cannon in response to his remarks on a podcast in which he and Richard "Professor Griff" Griffin, the former Public Enemy member, discussed racial bias. The podcast was recorded in May 2019 and released on June 30.

The men contended that Black people are the true Hebrews and Jews have usurped that identity. Cannon then argued that lighter-skinned people—"Jewish people, white people, Europeans"—"are a little less" and have a "deficiency" that historically caused them to act out of fear

and commit acts of violence to survive.

"They had to be savages," he said.

Jewish leaders including the Anti-Defamation League and prominent rabbis criticized the remarks.

Cannon said in his apology tweets that his words "reinforced the worst stereotypes of a proud and magnificent people and I feel ashamed of the uninformed and naïve place that these words came from."

ViacomCBS cited Cannon's lack of contrition as part of its reason for terminating their working relationship with him.

Son-in-law refuses to stop driving after having seizures

DEAR ABBY: My son-in-law was diagnosed with epilepsy 25 years ago. He typically has two or three seizures a year. He has seen a neurologist on and off over the years, but he has not been to the doctor for his medications in several years. He works in the medical field and gets his meds from the doctors he works with.

He recently had a seizure after dropping one of his children off at an appointment. Fortunately, the child wasn't in the car when he wrecked it. My question is, how involved should I be? Should I confront him? Unfortunately, my grandchild reached out to her dad's mother. Her answer was she would pay for spine alignments for him. Did I mention he refuses to stop driving?

I'm extremely concerned about the well-being of my daughter and four grandchildren and the lives of others on the roads who could be injured or killed as a result of his actions. Do I have a right to be involved? My friends and other family members tell me there is nothing I can do.

FRIGHTENED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR FRIGHTENED: Your son-in-law should not be taking medications for his epilepsy from doctors who are not intimately involved with his care. If the accident didn't serve as a wakeup call to talk to his doctor, it should have.

Consider contacting your auto insurance company and asking what can be done about an epileptic motorist who is prone to seizures several times a year while still driving.

If you can't find guidance there, the state police where your son-in-law lives might be interested in what you have to say. Your daughter and her family have been lucky so far not to have been seriously injured, but they may not always be. The only thing you should NOT do is stay silent.

DEAR ABBY: Over the last several years I have learned the value of counseling, which helped me deal with years of undiagnosed depression. I overcame my preconceived notions about therapy, and I'm happier now than I have ever been because I was able to let go of tons of burdens I carried from my past. It has been a wonderful and life-changing experience.

One of my relatives has mentioned several times that she has a very strained relationship with her mom. I can't think of a nicer family, so I have never understood what could have caused this rift.

On Mother's Day, I saw several social media posts from people celebrating their mothers, expressing how much they love them and how much they appreciate all their mothers have done for them. My relative posted something along the lines of, "My goal in life is to be a better mother than mine was" and some other things that demonstrated her disdain for her mother.

When I saw the post, my heart ached for her mom, but my heart ached for my relative even more. It seems she carries so much hurt in her heart, and I wonder if she could benefit from therapy as I have, but I don't know how to suggest it. I am

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



afraid of hurting her feelings or getting her upset with me. How should I approach this?

HELPING OUT IN IDAHO

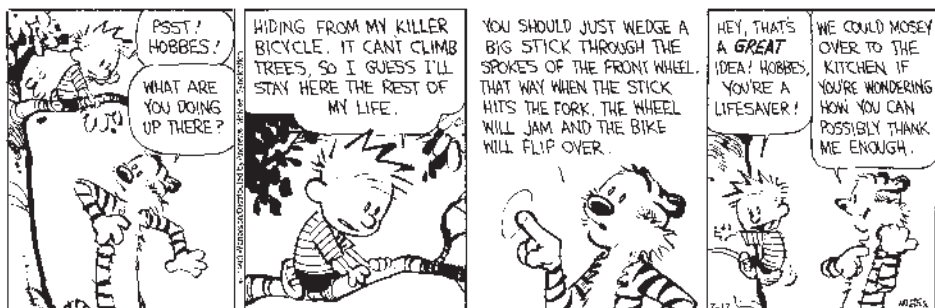
DEAR HELPING: Approach it by telling your relative you saw her post and were struck by the pain she must be feeling to have put something like that online for all the world to see. Explain about the baggage that therapy helped you to overcome in your own life and what a difference it has made for you. Then offer her your therapist's phone number.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

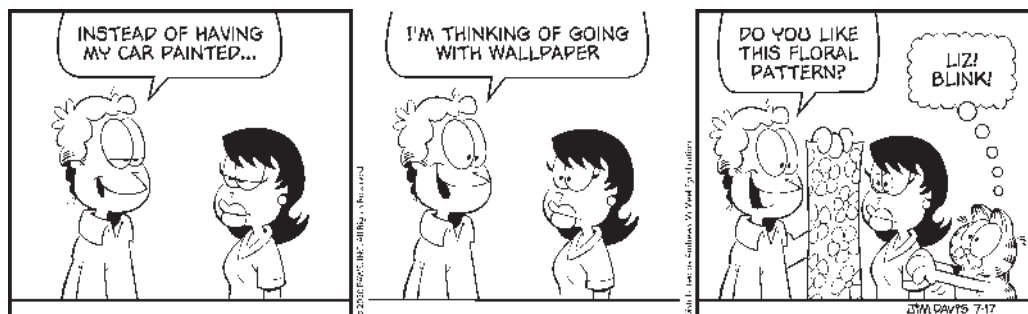
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



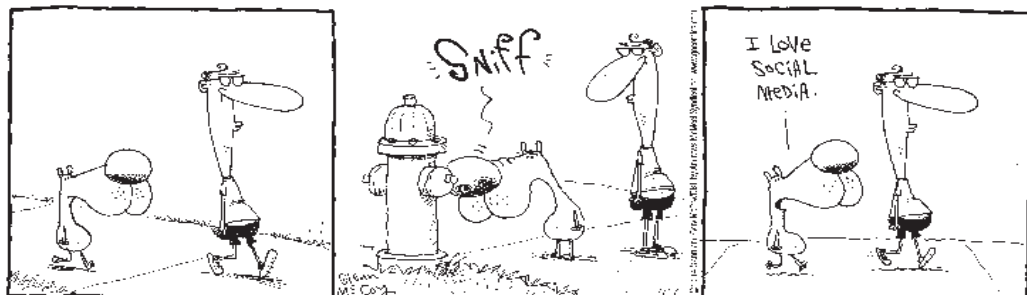
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Passing craze
4 Competent
8 Lane
12 "The Greatest"
13 Press
14 Repeat
15 Jazz combo highlight
17 Corp. leaders
18 Guys' dates
19 Dance studio rail
20 Tickle
22 Paradise
24 Maui garlands
25 "Well, maybe ..."
29 Curved letter
30 Rags-to-riches author
31 Surpass
32 It includes knights and bishops
34 Accomplishment
35 Sudan neighbor

DOWN

36 Biden and Pence
37 Analyze
40 Lusty look
41 Stagger
42 Dietary claim on
46 Simple
47 Now, in a memo
48 Sticky stuff
49 Relaxing resorts
50 Test version
51 Ram's ma'am

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Luke Bryan, 44; Carey Hart, 45; David Hasselhoff, 68; Donald Sutherland, 85.

Happy Birthday: Take a unique approach to the changing times, and you will come out on top. Recognize that life has changed and that new territory is evolving that can lead to greater opportunity. A willingness to adapt and use what's transpired to your advantage will set the new standard by which you live. Be smart, and you will excel. Your numbers are 6, 14, 21, 23, 37, 42, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Channel your energy into something constructive. If you have too much time to think, you will end up in a senseless argument. Let the past help you make a clear-cut decision. Make time for someone you love. Romance is encouraged. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Consider what you want, and go after it wholeheartedly. Make your opportunities, and strive for perfection in all that you pursue. Be a fierce competitor and a passionate and loyal friend, and you'll bring out the best in everyone. ★★★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Reach out to a cause you are passionate about helping. How you spend your spare time will help you grow emotionally and mentally. Dig in and make a difference. Someone you meet will pique your imagination as well as your interest. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll get an inside view of a situation that can lead to something that interests you professionally or financially. Don't take too long to make up your mind, or it will turn into a lost opportunity. A physical challenge will be energizing. ★★★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Participate in life. Take action, be a driving force and make a difference. Sign up to volunteer, be the one to negotiate and run the show. Life is about doing; if you let others do for you, you lose your voice. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): How you approach situations, people and responsibilities will matter. Consistency, fairness and the ability to listen to sound advice and to admit when you are wrong will help you excel. Don't let emotions ruin your chance to succeed. ★★★★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Consider what you want, who is standing in your way and how best to reach your target. Step away from demanding or indulgent people, and put your energy into personal growth, self-improvement and connecting with those who share similar goals. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Educate, formulate and market what you want to do next. A change of scenery will help stimulate your mind and trigger how best to bring about a positive lifestyle change. It's up to you to initiate what you want to achieve. ★★★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let anger take over when action is required. If you love someone, speak up, find out where you stand and be prepared to take the next step, regardless of what that might be. Choose your lot in life. ★★★★★

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Slow down, and wait for substantial evidence to unfold before allowing someone to work alongside you. Confusion is apparent, and it's essential to give the benefit of the doubt. Getting involved in gossip will be damaging. ★★★★★

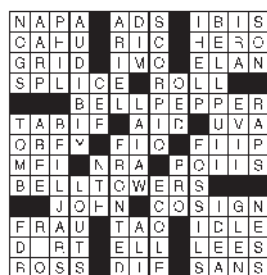
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): It's time to do your own thing. Put your talents to work for you in ways you've only dreamed about in the past, and you will make headway. Share your feelings with someone you love. Romance is featured. ★★★★★

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Walk away from a bad situation. Embrace a positive change that will take you back to a time when life was simpler. Make decisions that will encourage you to gravitate toward the people who bring out the best in you. ★★★★★

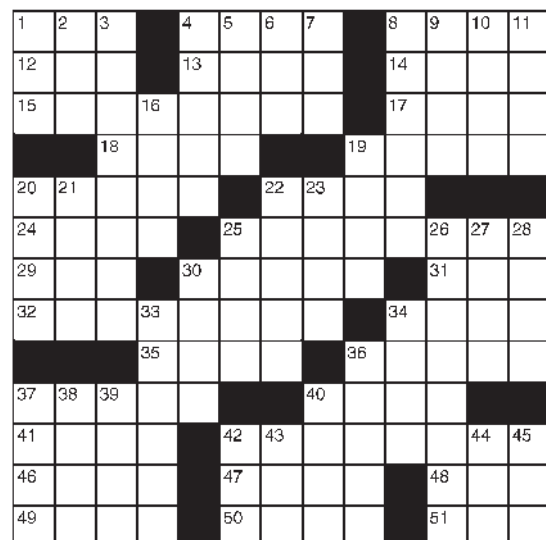
Birthday Baby: You are insightful, adaptable and energetic. You are charming and expressive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn. Copyright 2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 7-17



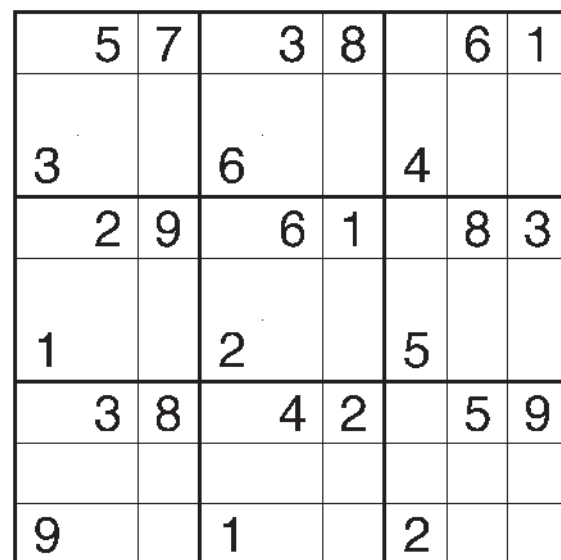
STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



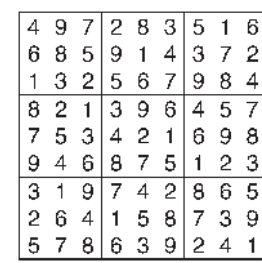
Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/17

©2012 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S ABOUT TIME

Solution: 8 letters



©2020 Andrews McMeel Syndication www.wonderword.com

7/17
Achieve, Aeon, Arrange, Attain, Blossom, Completed, Cover, Current, Date, Develops, Eager, Earliness, Emanate, Emerge, Ensnare, Eternity, Exit, Finally, Fixed, Grown, Headway, Keen, Length, Loom, Materialize, Mature, Nowness, Phase, Prosper, Realize, Reify, Result, Satisfy, Skill, Span, Spell, Spot, Spread, Stage, Start, Step, Stint, Term, Waiting, Zeal
Yesterday's Answer: Blind Dates
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

Cowboys, Prescott fail to reach extension deal



DALLAS—For only the fourth time in NFL history, a quarterback will play out a season under the franchise tag as the Dallas Cowboys failed to reach a contract extension with Dak Prescott before Wednesday's deadline for designated players to reach a long-term agreement.

The two sides remained locked in their stance over contract years versus salary right up to the deadline, scuttling any chance of a deal that would have resolved the most pressing issue for the Cowboys over the past year.

Now, Prescott heads into his first franchise tag season, joining Drew Brees, who played under the tag for the San Diego Chargers in 2005 and Kirk Cousins, who played under two consecutive tags for Washington in 2016 and 2017.

Prescott's move forward into his first tag year also sets up one of the more remarkable showdowns in the history of NFL free agency in 2021, with both sides expected to return to these same trenches: Dallas likely franchising Prescott for a second straight year in 2021 and the quarterback again pushing for a deal that would make him one of the highest-paid players at his position.

The impasse boiled down to basic contract math and leverage, sources told Yahoo Sports this week. Dallas was ultimately prepared to pay Prescott a deal that exceeded all the quarterbacks from his draft class in 2016, including former No. 1 overall pick Jared Goff, who has appeared in a Super Bowl and signed a four-year, \$134 million extension with more than \$110 million in guaranteed money and an average salary of \$33.5



In this Dec. 15, 2019 file photo, Dallas Cowboys quarterback Dak Prescott warms up prior to an NFL game against the Washington Redskins in Arlington, Texas.

million. That deal was a tack-on for the Los Angeles Rams, who ultimately gained control of Goff for six total years once the deal was consummated.

Dallas was willing to exceed the Goff deal for at least five years of control over Prescott, something that Prescott's camp wasn't entertaining without a

significant bump over Goff in annual salary and total guarantees. That reality set up a significant chasm approaching Wednesday, with both sides unwilling to bridge the gap.

With Prescott repeatedly telling his representation that he was willing to continue betting on himself, it reinforced

a stance that became simple: Given that Dallas has the right to franchise tag Prescott for the next three seasons (from 2020 through 2022) at a cost of more than \$123 million in guaranteed salary, the quarterback's deal coming into this deadline needed to start there—with \$123 million in

guarantees and an average-per-year salary that was approaching \$40 million.

Furthermore, if the deal was going to put Prescott under contract for at least five years, a competitive deal in light of the recent Patrick Mahomes extension in Kansas City and the coming extension for

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson would place Prescott in the \$40-million-per-season average.

It was inside that framework of expectation that things broke down for Dallas. The quarterback market moved considerably—and it happened at a time when Prescott had played himself onto the doorstep of significant leverage.

Now, Dallas will pay him \$31.4 million on a one-year deal in 2020, setting up two future franchise tags that are expected to land at \$37.7 million in 2021 and a massive \$54.2 million in 2022. Should the Cowboys not tag Prescott again in either 2021 or 2022, he will become an unrestricted free agent in that year's class.

Meanwhile, Myles Garrett's on-field misbehavior last season damaged his public image. It didn't change how the Cleveland Browns feel about him.

The team signed Garrett to a five-year, \$125 million contract extension on Wednesday, making the talented edge rusher the NFL's highest-paid defensive player. The deal includes \$100 million guaranteed, according to NFL Network.

In Tennessee, the Titans announced Wednesday they had agreed on a "multiyear extension" with Derrick Henry just before the NFL deadline for a long-term deal to avoid the running back having to play this season under the franchise tag.

Henry reportedly received a four-year deal for \$50 million with \$25.5 million guaranteed, according to ESPN.com. (AP/NBC)

New USWNT coach focuses on NWSL Challenge Cup

NEW YORK—The schedule for the U.S. women's national team is empty.

If not for the COVID-19 pandemic that has forced the world into lockdown, the United States women's national team would be in Japan right now getting ready for the Olympics to start next week.

Instead, most USWNT players are in Utah playing for the National Women's Soccer League in a one-off, month-long bubble tournament. They have to get tested for COVID-19 every few days—an unpleasant experience—but it's worth it because it may be the only soccer they play all year.

That's where you can find Vlatko Andonovski, the head coach of the USWNT. Without any games or camps to prepare for, Andonovski's focus is the NWSL Challenge Cup, where he can only observe games and training sessions from a distance. What he loves most about his job, working with the players on the pitch, is just out of reach.


"I was watching one of the training sessions with staff and I turned around and told them: 'You know what? I miss this. I want to be down there on the field,'" he recalls to Yahoo Sports in a phone interview from Utah.

"I want to prepare for a game," he adds. "The ability to help the players get better, the feeling of getting ready for the game—it's hard to explain. I do miss that."


But the NWSL Challenge Cup is a goldmine of information for the USWNT coach. Sure, he can't exactly do his job as planned and nothing will make up for a lack of USWNT camps, but this condensed tournament has made it much easier for him to catch up.

Under normal circumstances, Andonovski would have to fly around the country to see his USWNT players in their club environments, and he could only ever see a fraction of NWSL games in person. But in Utah, he attends every single game in the Challenge Cup and, between him and three assistants, most of the training sessions are covered too. (NBC)


LIVING & DINING SETS
BEDS
MATTRESSES
APPLIANCES
TVs
COMPUTERS
ELECTRONICS




Starting at \$20.95/week



Starting at \$16.95/week



Starting at \$14.95/week




Starting at \$18.95/week


1¢

RENTS


til' next payday!




Starting at \$14.95/week



Starting at \$15.95/week



43-75" UHD TV
Starting at \$18.95/week




Starting at \$20.95/week

*This is a rent to own transaction. You don't own the product until all rental payments are completed. Example: \$9.95 x 12 months=\$517.40. Some restrictions apply, see store for details.

NO CREDIT NEEDED

CHALAN KANOA 234-DIAL | MIDDLE ROAD 234-RENT



Judge returns, HRs with Stanton off Paxton

NEW YORK (AP)—James Paxton and Aaron Judge were back on the field for an intrasquad game Wednesday, making the New York Yankees look more like themselves eight days before the latest opening day in team history.

Pitching under game conditions for the first time since back surgery five months ago, Paxton gave up a home run on his second pitch to Judge. Two batters later, Paxton allowed a long ball to Giancarlo Stanton.

“It’s a great lineup. I’m glad that it’s ours,” the 31-year-old left-hander said. “I’m glad that I’m not facing those guys all the time.”

Judge had not played in an intrasquad game since Thursday because of a stiff neck, another in a series of health concerns for the 2017 AL Rookie of the Year.

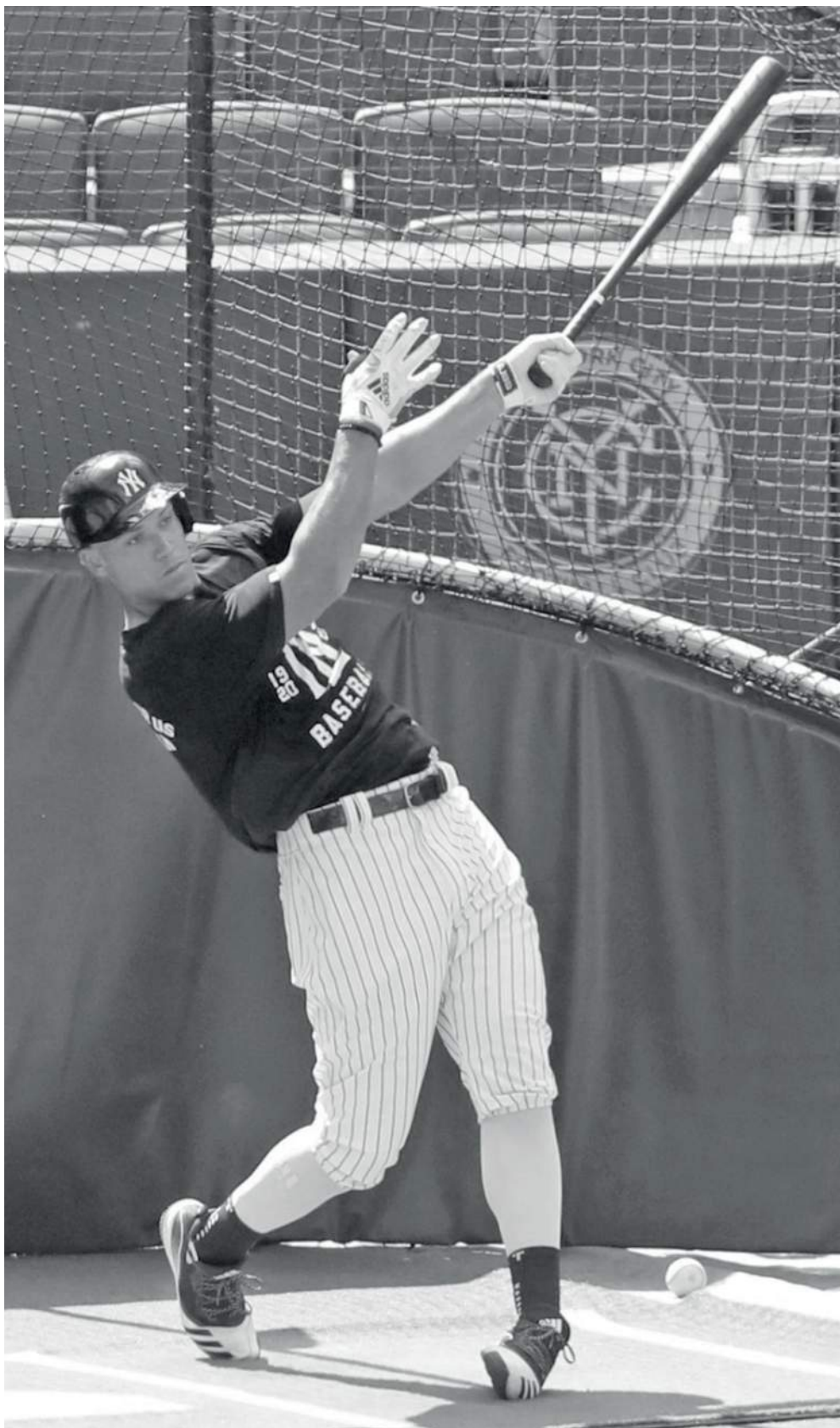
Judge estimated his neck motion had improved from 35% to 90%. He homered into the net above Monument Park.

“Good enough to play,” Judge said. “Sometimes you just wake up on the wrong side of bed.”

Judge was limited to 214 games during the past two regular seasons. He had a broken right wrist when hit by a Jakob Junis fastball in 2018, then an oblique strain that sidelined him for two months last year.

He broke a rib making a diving catch last September. That latter injury didn’t keep him out of last year’s playoffs but would have sidelined him during the early part of this season had the schedule not been wiped out by the coronavirus pandemic.

“You break a bone in your ribs from diving, trying to make a play for your pitcher, you get hit in the wrist by a pitcher, it’s just freak things,”



AP
New York Yankees’ Aaron Judge bats in the cage at Yankees summer baseball training camp, Wednesday, July 15, 2020, at Yankee Stadium in New York.

Judge said. “I’m going to keep playing this game hard, and that’s all I know.”

Paxton was 15-6 with a 3.82 ERA last year in his first full season with the Yankees, who acquired him from Seattle. He got hurt late in the season and finally had surgery on Feb. 5.

He needs just eight days of service time this season to become eligible for free agency but said he has had no thoughts about reaching that mark and then opting out of a contract cut from \$12.5 million to \$4.63 million due to the shortened season.

“I’m here to play. I’m here to win. I’m here to help us try and get number 28,” he said, a reference to the World Series title the Yankees seek. “I feel good. I feel healthy. I’m ready to roll.”

He didn’t pitch in any exhibitions before spring training was interrupted in mid-March, and he’ll get to appear in the Yankees’ final practice game, against Philadelphia on Monday. New ace Gerrit Cole is scheduled to start the July 23 opener at Washington, and manager Aaron Boone said Paxton will start the second game at the Nationals on July 25.

Before the economic devastation caused by the coronavirus, Paxton appeared on track for a nine-figure contract next offseason. Represented by Scott Boras, who prefers his clients become free agents, Paxton would not say whether he would consider negotiating a long-term deal with the Yankees before going free.

Paxton struck out five, walked two and hit Luke Voit, allowing two hits over 4 2/3 innings while throwing 68 pitches. His fastball was 92-94 mph.

Good news for Mets

Jacob deGrom and the New York Mets averted a serious scare Wednesday when an MRI showed nothing to be concerned about, according to a person familiar with the situation.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because no immediate announcement on deGrom’s medical condition was planned. The two-time Cy Young Award winner was sent for tests after exiting an intrasquad game early with tightness in his back.

Mets manager Luis Rojas said a frustrated deGrom left Tuesday night’s camp outing after only one inning at Citi Field. He is day to day.

Any significant injury to deGrom would be an enormous blow to New York during a season shortened to 60 games due to the coronavirus pandemic. The right-hander had been scheduled to pitch in an exhibition tuneup this weekend against the Yankees and then start on opening day July 24 versus Atlanta—but all that could change now.

“It’s a little bit too early still to make those decisions,” Rojas said Wednesday afternoon. “We’ll have to see what comes out of the MRI.”

The Mets already are minus No. 2 starter Noah Syndergaard, who will miss the entire season following Tommy John surgery.

Last year, deGrom won his second consecutive NL Cy Young Award after going 11-8 with a 2.43 ERA in 204 innings pitched. He led the National League with 255 strikeouts.



DUBLIN, Ohio

(AP)—Tiger Woods and Bryson DeChambeau pounded shots along the front nine of Muirfield Village, a nine-hole practice round Wednesday that no doubt would have attracted a capacity crowd if spectators were allowed at the Memorial.

They are gobbling up most of the attention in golf, for entirely different reasons.

One of them because he’s Woods.

The other because he’s unlike anyone else in the game.

DeChambeau has everyone talking, whether it’s his super-sized physique, how hard he swings the driver, how far he is hitting the golf ball or his beliefs—which can sound like boasts—that he’s changing the way the game is played.

Even the tournament host is curious.

Woods, DeChambeau attract attention for different reasons

“Bryson’s golf swing is not a fluid golf swing,” Jack Nicklaus said. “Bryson’s golf swing is pretty much pretty firm going back and firm coming through with a lot of body rotation. It’s a little different than a lot of guys. And can you believe the power he’s getting from that? I mean, it’s unbelievable.”

“I, for one, I want to watch him play a little bit,” Nicklaus added. “I’d like to see what he does and how he’s actually doing that because he’s obviously doing something right. The ball is going a long way. And he’s playing well with it.”

DeChambeau faces a stacked field at the Memorial—nine of the top 10 in the world, 43 out of the top 50—while coming off a victory two weeks ago when he pummeled Detroit Golf Club with his driv-

er. He has seven straight top-10 finishes dating to March, before COVID-19 shut down the tour. Since its return, DeChambeau has hit 29 tee shots of 350 yards or longer.

Woods is 44 and still has plenty of pop.

“There was a couple holes he hit 320, 325,” said DeChambeau, 26. “I’m like, ‘That’s pretty good for his age.’”

Wednesday wasn’t the first time they have practiced together. Woods is intrigued by a different way of playing, which is why a generation ago he used to practice early with Bubba Watson to see not just his length but the shape in his shots. DeChambeau brings an element of physics to his approach, taking into account air density and ground force.

A year ago, they were playing together in the Memorial

when DeChambeau was given a bad time for taking too long over a shot. He was furious, and later claimed the PGA Tour was going about it the wrong way. He said it should take into account how fast a player walks to the ball.

How quickly the conversation has changed. Now it’s not about slow play as much as it is muscle mass, a ball speed approaching 200 mph and whether this is the way everyone should play.

Dustin Johnson, who won the last time he played at the Travelers Championship, has ample power. Asked what would happen if he swung as hard as DeChambeau, he replied: “I’d probably hurt something. And I would find half of them.”

He’s not about to change.

“I hit it far enough,” John-

son said. “And until I feel like I need to hit it further to compete or beat these guys, then that’s what I’ll do. But for right now, I feel like if I’m playing my game, he can hit it as far as he wants to, and I don’t think he’s going to beat me.”

Woods has always been about power, and so much more. It’s why he has won 82 times on the PGA Tour and has a chance at the Memorial—where he has won five times—to break the career victory record he shares with Sam Snead.

When he started, Woods and John Daly were the biggest hitters. Technology has changed all that, starting with launch monitors that have led to sonar devices that allow players to optimize everything. What amazed Woods was not so much the distance

but the accuracy that goes with it.

“Let’s look at the fact that he’s hitting it as straight as he is,” Woods said. “That’s part of the most difficult thing to do. The further you hit it, the more the tangent goes more crooked. So the fact that he’s figured that out and has been able to rein in the foul balls to me has been equally as impressive as his gains off the tee.”

The next question is whether that will work at Muirfield Village, which figures to be the toughest test since golf resumed at shorter courses with minimal rough and softer greens. This is the second straight tournament at the course Nicklaus built. Greens are being replaced after this week, so there’s no fear of getting them super slick to the point of dying. The rough is thicker. There are more hazards.

Crawford gets another chance in NBA ‘bubble’

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Jamal Crawford is coming off a 51-point game. People may have forgotten. After all, it was more than 450 days ago.

And for a while, it looked like that game might have been Crawford's last as a player—because for most of this season, the now 40-year-old guard remained unsigned.

“To be honest with you, I went through a range of emotions,” Crawford said. “I was frustrated at the beginning. I didn’t understand. I didn’t know what happened.”

Luckily for Crawford, it doesn’t matter anymore. He’s back in the NBA, filling one of the spots that the Brooklyn Nets needed to address after their roster was decimated by injuries and coronavirus-related issues coming into the season restart at Walt Disney World. With Vince Carter now officially retired, Crawford comes back into the league as its oldest player -- about 2 1/2 months older than Miami’s Udonis Haslem.

Crawford, a three-time NBA Sixth Man of the Year and a past winner of the Twyman-Stokes Teammate of the Year Award, practiced with the Nets for the first time on Wednesday.

“He’s a guy that loves playing the game of basketball in the offseason, really keeps himself in shape, whether that’s playing in pro-ams, whether that’s playing pickup games, whether that’s just being around the game with his kids,” Nets interim coach Jacque Vaughn said. “And then some

people just have the genetics that go with it, that they’re special human beings and they can still play at the age of 40—or 20 times two, right?”

The Nets will become Crawford’s ninth team in a career that, once he gets into a game at Walt Disney World, will reach 20 seasons.

His last game was April 9, 2019, when he came off the bench and scored 51 points for Phoenix against Dallas. He’s the oldest player in NBA history to score 50 in a game—Michael Jordan was about seven weeks shy of his 39th birthday when he had his last 50-point outing -- and for a while this season it looked like Crawford would join Kobe Bryant in a rare NBA club.

Bryant scored 60 in his final NBA game. If Crawford’s last outing with Phoenix would have been his NBA farewell as well, he and Bryant would have been the only two players to score at least 50 in their on-court finales.

“If guys said your last game was a 51-point game off the bench, that’s a heck of an exit,” Crawford said. “So, I tried to find the peace within that and I got a chance to spend time with family. But I’m so happy to be back.”

Change of heart

Victor Oladipo is having second thoughts about calling it a season.

If all goes well over the next two weeks, the Indiana Pacers just might get their two-time All-Star back.

Twelve days after announcing he would sit out because of concerns over his surgically repaired



In this April 9, 2019 file photo, Phoenix Suns’ Jamal Crawford (11) goes up for a shot against Dallas Mavericks’ Jalen Brunson in the second half of an NBA game in Dallas. AP

right knee, Oladipo told reporters Wednesday the workouts in Orlando, Florida, have forced him to rethink his decision.

“It was hard for me to assess

where I was,” Oladipo said. “But being able to come down here and practice with my guys at a high level, I think there’s a strong possibility that I might

play. I want to be smart because I want to play the next 10 years.”

Oladipo’s presence could give the Pacers a big boost when the season resumes, es-

pecially with starting guard Malcolm Brogdon also expected to be healthy.

Indiana is scheduled to play three scrimmage games before facing Philadelphia on Aug. 1, the first of eight regular-season games. First-round playoff games are set to begin Aug. 17.

Oladipo told team officials last week he would only practice—not play—when the team arrived in Florida. Kevin Pritchard, the Pacers president of basketball operations, and coach Nate McMillan both said they supported Oladipo, whose minutes were being closely monitored when the season was suspended in mid-March.

Still, Oladipo’s decision drew criticism from those who thought the former Indiana University star was trying to protect himself for a potentially big payday in free agency after next season.

Instead, Oladipo followed the plan.

“I was always going to come down here and test it out,” he said. “When I made my decision, I wasn’t able to play five on five, wasn’t able to get up and down the floor and wasn’t able to do things at a high level, so I didn’t think I would be able to play. But after coming down here and working with the guys, rebounding, running and jumping, I’m trending in a positive direction. So hopefully when it’s time to play, I can play.”

The Pacers hope so, too.

Oladipo had surgery for a ruptured quad tendon last year and missed 12 months of action. When he returned in late January, Oladipo wasn’t the same. In 13 games, he averaged 13.8 points 3.2 rebounds and 3.0 assists while shooting just 39.1% from the field.

FLASHBACK

From Page 24

most dramatic win of the day in front of several hundreds Samoans,” head coach Jeff Race said.

The mixed doubles quarterfinals was the fourth straight game that Sinclair played that day and it came just 10 minutes after he and Robbie Schorr also won their Round of 8 tiff in the men’s doubles. Sinclair and Schorr, actually played back-to-back matches in the men’s doubles, as they first topped Solomon Islands’ Charlie Junior Benjamin and Popai Leong, 6-0, 6-1 and then swept American Samoa’s Christian Duchnak and Larry Magalasin, 6-3, 6-1, to make it to the semifinals and assure the CNMI a chance to play in the medal round.

Earlier in singles play, Sinclair reached the semis after outclassing Fiji’s William O’Connell, 6-3, 6-3

DICKINSON

From Page 24

ing the LumberJacks in the finals, 14-5.

Bombers first baseman Jake Borst and Haymakers’ Zeb Roost were named MVPs, while Chill’s Paul Kosanovich and the LumberJacks’ Andrew Acierini took the Pitcher of the Year honors. For the rest of the All-Stars selection, five Bombers players made the list—Ryan Gervais, John McHenry, Ewan Weinberg, and Dante Caviggia. Completing the group were LumberJacks’ Cesar Cuevas, Brad Hallock, Jose Mercado, and Jake Martin; Chill’s Ernesto Figueroa, Gasper D’Anna, and Jake Biscailuz; Bluesox’s Dillon Thomas, Brice Schultz, Riley Lowry, and Andrew Savoy; Grizzly’s Trey Law, Nick Torres, and Matt DiMemmo; Northstars, Charlie Brown, Nate Bandy, and Matt Crossley; and Haymakers’ Tyler Norris and Hunter Bostater.

Meanwhile, Dickinson was flooded with congratulatory

greetings for his All-Stars selection. Leading his well-wishers was his former coach with the Falcons—Manny Evangelista.

“I’m not surprise at all buddy, keep it up,” Evangelista said.

Before moving to California, Dickinson played in three divisions of the Saipan Little League and made it to the CNMI All-Star Team selections also in Major, Junior, and Senior League categories. The 2016 Finals MVP (Junior League) then suited up for Rancho Mirage High School in the De Anza League for two seasons, making him ripe for the collegiate ranks.

Dickinson had a shortened rookie season with the College of the Desert in the Inland Empire Conference of the California Community College Athletic Association due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, despite of the unexpected ending to his freshman year, the 19-year-old still put up impressive numbers in 23 games and was part of the Roadrunners’ starting unit.



Spencer Dickinson bends to pick up the ball during a training session with the College of Desert in California early this year. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Cowboys,
Prescott fail
to reach
extension deal

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Judge returns,
HRs with
Stanton off
Paxton

PAGE 22



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

24 FRIDAY, JULY 17, 2020

Dickinson makes elite selection



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Dickinson, left, and his fellow CNMI Little League product Dominic Yumul pose for a photo before playing for Snowbirds.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Former CNMI Little League player Spencer Dickinson was selected to the 2020 Palm Springs Collegiate League All-Stars after seeing action in the summer competition in Texas for a month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Spencer Dickinson follows through with his swing during one of his games with the Snowbirds in the 2020 Palm Springs Collegiate League in Texas last month.

Flashback: Sinclair, Lee break Samoa's heart

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

No disrespect for the host, but the CNMI's Colin Sinclair

and Carol Lee, on July 17, 2019, did plunge the dagger when they defeated hometown favorites Leon Soonalole and



Eleanor Schuster in the mixed doubles event in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Park Tennis Courts in Samoa.

Playing in front of the partisan crowd, the two Commonwealth bets seemed to have felt the pressure in the quarterfinal match, allowing the Samoan pair to draw first blood, 6-2.

Needing just one win to complete the upset against the No. 2 seed CNMI duo, Schuster and Soonalole played in the second set with more confidence. However, Lee and Sinclair regrouped and took the victory, 6-2, to remain in contention. The visiting players went on to prevail in the super-tiebreaker third set, 10-3, and disappointed the home crowd.

"Colin and Carol had the

**See FLASHBACK on
Page 23**



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI's Colin Sinclair, left, serves, while Carol Lee gets ready near the net during their mixed doubles game against Samoa's Leon Soonalole and Eleanor Schuster in the XVI Pacific Games at the Apia Park Tennis Courts in Apia.

Dickinson, who last played in the Commonwealth for the Talaabwogh Falcons in the Senior League division of the Saipan Little League Baseball, was one of the only three players from his team—Snowbirds—who made it to the elite selection. The other two were Samuel Adams and Cameron French.

The third baseman played in 18 games against seven teams at the Ranger College from June 11 to July 11 and was 15-for-40 at the plate for a batting average of .375. Dickinson marked his first game in the league with a two-run homer against the Lumberjacks. Besides his homer, the College of the Desert incoming sophomore scored 10 runs, seven RBIs, nine singles, and five doubles.

"I'm truly blessed to be selected as one of the all-stars out of more than 100 players and just blessed to be able to play baseball again with what's happening around the world," said Dickinson.

The Palm Springs Collegiate League is a summer program based in California and focuses on developing collegiate talent from throughout the U.S., according to its website. It's also a breeding ground for Major League Baseball players like Jason Munsch—the 2018 PSCL Pitcher of the Year and Concordia record-holder for career strikeouts (281), career earned-run average (2.81) and strikeouts in a game (20)—who signed up with the Milwaukee Brewers as a free agent last month.

This year's competition in the Palm Springs Collegiate League was moved from California to Texas due to safety concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic. The over 100 players throughout the U.S. were divided into eight teams and they played every day for a month. The Bombers are this year's champions after beat-

**See DICKINSON on
Page 23**